DUDLEY
CHRONICLE

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Lights action

Pub gets lit up for the festive season

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X appeal

Stars are out for dazzling celebration at Merry Hill

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HEARTBREAK OF CARE DILEMMA

Report by Mark Andrews

"WE have never been apart, we have always been together. I sit here looking at his chair every day, I miss Jim and he misses me."

Joyce Smith stares at a picture of her husband Jim. During their 44 years of marriage, 90-year-old Joyce had barely been apart from the 96-year-old love of her life.

But now, for the first time, the Black Country couple are being forced to lead separate lives because Jim's health problems require round-the-clock care, while his wife's condition is not serious enough to qualify.

"We shouldn't be separated at our time in life," says Joyce, tearfully. "It's terrible, I feel afraid being on my own, I suppose. I haven't seen Jim since he has been in the home. I can't get out to see him, and I think it is going to be very difficult coming up to Christmas. I'm so sad. I want to be with Jim."

"It's breaking her heart," says Joyce's daughter, Diane Fellows. "she's had social services around and she's been crying, but for them it's all about ticking boxes."

Common

the signs are that this is a problem which is going to be increasingly common as local authorities wrestle with the double problems of an ageing population and increasing pressures on budgets.

The risk of elderly couples being forced to live apart due to differing medical needs was identified by former health secretary Alan Johnson as far back as 2008, who said more needed to be done to keep couples together in old age.

"We must help to make 'till death us do part' a reality for older couples who are too often separated when one of them has to go into care," he said.

Caroline Abrahams, charity director at Age UK, agrees. "Couples being forced to live apart as a result of social care circumstances has always been something of an issue. In deciding whether people need to be in a care home or not, the local authorities should not simply go for the cheapest alternative but take into account people's need to maintain family relationships.

"The problem could also be reduced if there were more alternatives to care homes such as extra care sheltered housing schemes."

The Smiths' plight began when D-Day veteran Jim was admitted to Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley at the start of August, after being taken ill with a kidney complaint. When he was discharged after four weeks, social services ruled he was not fit to return to the flat he shared with Joyce in Brunel Court, Wombourne. He was offered a place at the Island Court care home in the Woodsetton area of Dudley.

Joyce Smith holds a picture of her husband of 44 years Jim after they have been separated because of their differing care needs

Jim moved into the home on September 4, but was told that because his wife did not need full-time nursing care, she would have to remain at her flat at Brunel Court. Staff at Island Court have said they are prepared to allow Joyce to move in with her husband, subject to funding being found to pay for the room. And so far, that has been the problem.

"I know it's all down to money, but we're not talking hundreds of thousands," says Diane. Staff at Island Court have told her it would cost £391 a week for Joyce to live with her husband. But Diane points out that Staffordshire social services are already paying £90 a week for carers to visit her mother throughout the day, looking after her basic needs.

"Somebody has to come and get her up in the morning and make her breakfast," says Diane, 63. "Somebody comes to make her dinner, and puts her to bed at night. We have no complaint about the care she is receiving, but all she says is 'Why can't I be with Jim?'"

Joyce is living in a sheltered accommodation flat run by the ExtraCare Charitable Trust, which costs the taxpayer £150 a week in housing benefit, narrowing the gap to £151 a week. But Diane says that if her mother were to be moved into Island Court she would also be required to make a contribution from her pension, meaning the cost to the taxpayer would be very little.

A spokesman for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust said: "We are working with Mr and Mrs Smith and their family to ensure both receive the appropriate level of care and in the most suitable place."

Joyce's MP Gavin Williamson pledged to support the couple, saying it is totally unacceptable that they are being forced to live apart.

Churchill mosaic is linked to site plan

PLANS to restore a well-known memorial to wartime leader Winston Churchill in Dudley are ploughing ahead – but depend on the progress of a separate project in the town, an MP says.

The mosaic was the centrepiece of Dudley's original Churchill Precinct for more than 20 years before being taken down in 1991 after being targeted by vandals.

In March, Dudley North MP Ian Austin launched a campaign to get the memorial restored and returned to the town by the 50th anniversary of Churchill's death in 2015.

Talks are taking place with firms working on the town's long-disused Cavendish House site for the memorial to be placed there.

If those discussions are successful it would then depend on the progress of the developments when the memorial would be back.

"It may seem to have quiet but there is still a lot going on," he said. "I am still aiming to have a memorial to Churchill back in the town by 2015. However it will all depend on how work on the Cavendish House development progresses."

Yes to fewer cheap homes

A DOWNSIZED housing development on the site of a factory which helped the war effort has been backed by council planners.

Developer Taylor Wimpey says it is unable to provide the desired number of affordable homes as part of the scheme because of improved access and parking. The plan for homes at the former Lloyds factory site in Brettell Lane, Brierley Hill, was approved by Dudley Council's planning committee on Monday.

The engineering firm made propellers during the Second World War.

Taylor Wimpey had wanted to build 82 homes but two of the properties have been lost to improve access and parking.

M40 tragedy families in safety plea

FAMILIES of 12 children killed alongside their teacher in a minibus disaster 20 years ago this week have launched a new safety campaign, saying they fear youngsters on school trips are still at risk.

Victims' families marked the heartbreaking anniversary with a mass at the children's school, Hagley Roman Catholic High. Now they are calling for action to improve safety, saying only luck had prevented a similar crash from happening despite new laws that all minibuses must be fitted with three-point fastening seat belts.

Steve Fitzgerald, whose 13-year-old daughter Claire died, said: "What lessons have been learned from the 20 years we have had without our children? Nothing is in place to prevent such a crash from happening again."

The party was returning from a concert at the Royal Albert Hall after midnight on November 18 1993, when the minibus hit the back of a motorway maintenance lorry on the hard shoulder of the M40, near Warwick. An inquest, which recorded verdicts of accidental death, heard that teacher Eleanor Fry, who was driving, had probably fallen asleep at the wheel.

Schools and voluntary groups are not subject to the safety checks compulsory for commercial operators and volunteer drivers do not have to undertake minibus training.

Protests launched on threat to centres

PROTESTS have been launched over proposals to axe seven children's centres used by thousands of families across Dudley as the council aims to save £2.3 million.

A consultation has been launched into the scheme, which would see the number of centres in the borough reduced from 20 to 13.

Children's services chief, Councillor Tim Crumpton, blamed Government cuts in council funding for forcing them to table the proposal.

More than 15,000 children have access to the centres, based in clusters in five areas around the borough including Dudley, Brierley Hill, Stourbridge and Halesowen. They provide children's activities, support, childminding and nursery services, ante-natal services and careers advice for parents.

Families have reacted angrily to the news, saying the centres provide a vital lifeline and support network.Both Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin and Halesowen and Rowley Regis Conservative MP James Morris have spoken out against the moves.

■ Facing closure – page 2

Christmas countdown

THE COUNTDOWN to Christmas is officially under way with the installation of a festive lighting in Dudley town centre.

Christmas lights along Dudley High Street and around Market Place are ready for the big switch-on to be held on Saturday along with live entertainment and music at both Market Place and nearby Churchill Shopping Centre. It will feature the BCUPS Ukulele Band.

Families can also enjoy traditional steam engines and organs which will be around the town centre during the day.

The lights will be switched on at 4.45pm by Dudley's Mayor Councillor Alan Finch and Father Christmas.

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CONTACT US

Have you got a story or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and the Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Dudley who can help:

Tom Mason: 01902 319550
tom.mason@expressandstar.co.uk
Charlotte Lilley: 01902 319688
charlotte.lilley@expressandstar.co.uk
Will Ackermann: 01543 465305
will.ackermann@expressandstar.co.uk
Heather Large: 01384 353203
heather.large@expressandstar.co.uk
Louise Jew: 01384 353201
louise.jew@expressandstar.co.uk
Alex Ross: 01384 353207
alex.ross@expressandstar.co.uk
Andrew Turton: 01384 353202
andrew.turton@expressandstar.co.uk
Lee Watton: 01384 353230
lee.watton@expressandstar.co.uk

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Sports: E-mail: chronsport@expressanstar.co.uk
Photographic John Sambrooks
Tel: 01902 319431

Advertising:

Nikki Cope
Tel: 01902 319573 E-mail: n.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

Emma Parkes
Tel: 01384 353234 E-mail: e.parkes@expressandstar.co.uk

Distribution: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990 E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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Many children's centres face closure due to cuts

Report by Andrew Turton

SAVAGE cuts are striking a 'devastating' blow to residents in Dudley, opposition councillors warned as the council announced plans to axe seven children's centres in a bid to balance the books.

Dudley Council has revealed proposals to shut seven children's centres serving thousands of families. This would reduce the number in the borough from 20 to 13.

They claim the move would help them save £2.3 million from overall children's services budgets, which are facing tough pressures.

Children's centres across Dudley, Brierley Hill, Stourbridge and Halesowen are under threat.

Hob Green children's centre in Pedmore and Netherton Park centre are among those which could be hit.

Reeling

More than 15,000 children have access to the centres, based in clusters in five areas around the borough including Dudley, Brierley Hill, Stourbridge and Halesowen.

They provide children's activities, support, including access to childminding and nursery services, ante-natal services and links with Jobcentre Plus to give careers advice to parents.

In total, 285 people work at the centres Residents have been left reeling by news Dudley Council is struggling under the weight of worse than expected forecasts on how much is need to be saved in the next three years.

The authority needs to make extra cuts on top of an initially-predicted £26 million amount set earlier this year following a huge drop in Government funding.

The council had already planned for up to 334 job losses by 2017, as well as major cuts to its children's services, museums and highways expenditure.

But now the cash-strapped council is forced to make £32 million of cuts over the same period with proposals on where these extra savings yet to be revealed.

Councillors last week revealed the latest axe to fall will be on the children's centres and launched consultation with the public.

Families have already started a campaign against the closure plans and dozens of parents turned out today to protest at one of the centres.

The council has been stung by a £3m overspend on budgets for looking after children in care this year.

Opposition Conservative group leader, Councillor Patrick Harley, called the move to axe children's centre a 'betrayal' of promises by the Labour leadership at the authority.

"I don't believe these cuts are being managed well and the council must be more radical and develop services better making use of the private sector," he said.

He added: "It is a betrayal of all the community who have pulled together to make these centres and the staff that have helped make them a success.

"The children's services budget is spiralling out of control after they announced they would need another £3m this year and sadly it is schools and children's centres that are suffering because of this.

"Unless they address the problems of the budget for looked after children they will continue to suffer."

Children's services chief Councillor Tim Crumpton blamed Government cuts in council funding for forcing them to table the proposal.

Councillor Crumpton said the proposal was not 'set in stone', adding: "We are launching a consultation process that I want to emphasise is open and honest.

"We face unprecedented cuts in funding across all of our public services and it is with a great deal of sadness that we are putting forward proposals to reduce the number of children's centres and the service that we provide.

"I will be meeting staff and users at every one of the 20 centres and will be inviting all local councillors to join me at the centres that serve their wards.

"I want to emphasise that the proposals put forward are just that, proposals, and all of the views expressed will be considered before any final decisions are made. This is as an opportunity for our statutory partners to consider what they may be able to bring to the table that may offset some of the funding difficulties.

"I also see it as an area where the voluntary sector may be able to help.

"We are open to all views and hope that those who use and those who value this service take the opportunity to tell us what they think."

Predicted

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said: "I don't envy the councillors in Dudley. They have to make very difficult decisions because the Government has cut the funding available for local services but I am worried about the plan to close Gornal's children's centre and I'll be talking to parents who use it and local councillors to discuss the impact it would have."

Government funding comes to the council in the form of a Revenue Support Grant. The council's predicted grant income was calculated in September and the budgets amended to show a £32m shortfall after three years. As part of the £26m of cuts, budgets for street and parks maintenance and cleaning will be slashed and up to three youth centres may be forced to close saving £380,000.

Further squeezes in arts funding are predicted including changes to the way Dudley Performing Arts is run.

The centres under threat also include Brierley Hill, in Parkes Street; Bromley Pensnett, in Bromley; Kingswinford and Wall Heath, in Mimosa Walk; Wordsley, in Lawnswood Road; Kates Hill and Sledmere, Selborne Road; Netherton Park; Priory, in Limes Road; Quarry Bank, in High Street, and Woodside, in Highgate Road.

Other centres at risk are Wrens Nest, in Marigold Crescent; Coseley, in Bayer Street; Gornal, in Roberts Street; Queen Victoria, in School Street; Little Hand, in Beeches View Avenue, Cradley; Olive Hill, in Springfields Road; Tenterfields, in Tenterfields, Halesowen; Butterfly, in Lye bypass; Peters Hill, in Peters Hill Road, and Amblecote and Stourbridge, in Forge Road.

Angry – front, from leftt, Heather Cheslin, Councillor Richard Body and Tracey Hipkiss with parents and children campaigning against proposals to close the Hob Green Children's Centre, Pedmore

Radical – Patrick Harley

Sadness – Tim Crumpton

Netherton Park Children's Centre at Netherton Park, Dudley, is also under threat as part of drastic cuts

Worried – MP Ian Austin

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Drunken woman in hoax bomb call

A WOMAN who made a hoax claim about a bomb in a busy town centre bus station while drunk has been handed a jail term.

Marie Booth from Dudley was drunk at the time she made the false claim after pressing an emergency button at Walsall bus station. Transport bosses who were monitoring CCTV avoided a mass evacuation of the station as they could see Booth was intoxicated.

The 38-year-old, who is serving a three month prison sentence for an unrelated offence, was given a further eight weeks imprisonment by magistrates.

Memory

Miss Maggie Meakin, prosecuting, said Booth had been seen on CCTV while she with a group on October 27. She was in a 'drunk state' and was seen pressing the helpline button to Centro at St Paul's station. When someone answered she said there was a bomb.

Miss Meakin told Walsall Magistrates Court: "She couldn't recall the incident in any way but accepted she was at that location." Booth pleaded guilty to communicating false information relating to a bomb hoax.

Miss Stephanie Brownlees, defending, said Booth was alcohol dependent and had been struggling with the problem for many years. Booth also had mental health issues. Booth, of Park Road, Netherton, had eight weeks added to a three month jail term imposed by Wolverhampton Magistrates Court for an unrelated offence. She appeared via video link.

Boost for campaign

DONATIONS have flooded in from campaigners desperate to save Dudley Hippodrome from the bulldozer.

More than £1,000 has so been handed over to enable a charitable trust to be set up to apply for grants in a bid to save the venue in Castle Hill.

Friends of Dudley Hippodrome say they need £5,000.

Group chairman Geoff Fitzpatrick said he was 'extremely grateful' to everyone who had donated. The group are hoping to get donations from many of the 30,000 who signed a petition opposing demolition plans.

Shrub is removed from historic cone

Keeping cone in good order

A SHRUB growing out of the side of an historic glass cone has been removed after concerns it could damage the iconic landmark.

A clump of vegetation had started to sprout from the brickwork on one side of the grade II-listed Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley.

Work has now taken place to remove the two Buddleia shrubs and one Ragwort before it could damage the fabric of the 220-year-old industrial structure.

It is not the first time emergency work has been needed to remove vegetation from the building. Specialist contractors had to move a small tree ahead of the International Festival of Glass last year and the problem stems back to 2008 when a cherry picker was needed to deal with a similar problem.

Seeds

Officials from Dudley Council confirmed the work had been carried out but said there was no way of preventing something similar happening in the future.

Councillor Tracy Wood, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "The plants have now been removed from the side of the cone. Unfortunately it is difficult to protect buildings from this happening as the seeds are often airborne."

Wordsley councillor John Jones said: "This was a major cause for concern as it only takes these plants to destabilise some of the mortar and you risk bricks coming out. The Red House Glass Cone is one of our most important attractions and we have to make sure it is protected."

Crimewave hits borough as thieves use darkness

A CRIMEWAVE of burglaries and attempted break-ins at homes in Dudley and Stourbridge has prompted police to warn residents to be vigilant.

by Andrew Turton

Police are hunting for the burglars responsible after 14 attacks on properties across parts of Dudley and Stourbridge since the start of November.

Officers had already revealed a spate of four break-ins and two attempted attacks in Pedmore but a further eight have been revealed in the Kates Hill and St Thomas area of Dudley and in Netherton.

Since November 1 eight burglaries have happened in Dingle Close and Dingle Road, Banklands Road, St Johns Road, Lister Road, Sledmere Road and Adshead Road.

Patrols

Sergeant Warren Lambeth, of West Midlands Police, said it was 'incredibly unusual' to have a spate of burglaries such as this.

House-to-house inquiries have been conducted and the area trawled for CCTV cameras, while forensic scene investigators have attended and retrieved a number of items.

Uniformed and plain clothes patrols have been stepped up in a bid to reassure worried residents and to prevent further crimes while crime reduction advice leaflets have also been delivered to homes in the area.

The force says news of the burglaries comes during a seasonal rise in crime associated with darker nights.

Officers are running a campaign – The Darker Nights Return – to raise people's awareness of how to keep their homes and families safe with some simple steps.

Sgt Lambeth, from St Thomas neighbourhood policing team, said: "To see eight burglaries in the last few weeks is incredibly unusual compared to the same time last year where four burglaries were reported. We have increased our patrols and we aim to catch the culprits responsible for this but would also look to local residents to help by reviewing their security.

"A lot of burglary happens because burglars see an opportunity, this could be an open window or unlocked door."

Four burglaries have happened in Ham Lane, Stevens Road, Pedmore Lane and Croftwood, in Pedmore.

Christmas arrives at pub

Summer House landlord John Coombs and Poppy Nicholls, eight, from Sedgley, who turned on the lights at the pub

IT'S beginning to look a lot like Christmas in a one corner of the Black Country.

Festive songs are already playing and hundreds of lights have been switched on at a pub which always makes sure Christmas is extra magical.

The Summer House, in Gospel End Road, Sedgley, has turned on its annual Christmas lights display and landlord John Coombs said it was the biggest yet, as more than 600 people flocked to attend the opening of the illuminations.

Around £1,800 has been spent on buying a computer system to link all the main lit-up figures. It has been installed using more than 1,600ft of cable to synchronise the display which adorns the front of the pub.

Nine flashing snowmen have been put on the pub roof and a winter wonderland has been created with around a dozen real Christmas trees and festive penguins.

The display boasts more than 25,000 bulbs but many have been replaced with energy-efficient LED lights.

Mr Coombs, 59, rallies the support of his family including his brother James who scaled the pub roof to hang lights and his computer-whizz son Chris who set up the hi-tech system.

Sculpted archways with shimmering lights and a giant tree with 6,000 lights welcome people inside the pub. The display will be on every night through the festive season and money will be raised for Compton Hospice, which has already benefited to the tune of £16,000 since the display started 13 years ago.

Crafts and gifts at centre

A BLACK Country-based charity has declared the festive shopping season open as it hosts a Christmas fair in aid of people living with sight loss. The event at Beacon Centre for the Blind in Sedgley is tonight (Thursday) from 6 to 9pm, bringing together crafts and gifts on more than 40 stalls.

Jenni Fryer, fundraising manager, said: "The Christmas Fair is one of our most successful annual events, and always raises a significant sum for the charity – as well as giving our supporters a terrific opportunity to find perfect Christmas gifts for their friends and family."

NEWS in brief

Church festive fair funds repairs

A CHURCH will be seeking to raise funds for building repairs when it holds its Christmas fair this weekend

St Augustine of Hippo Church in the Holly Hall area of Dudley will be holding the annual event on Saturday. The church, in Hallchurch Road, will be host stalls selling Christmas gifts, bric-a-brac, jewellery and home-made cakes between 10am and 12pm. There will also be refreshments and a tombola.

Church member Rosemary Plaister said funds raised would go towards vital repointing work. Admission is £1, including a raffle ticket.

Steampunk fans can meet authors

THE science fiction genre steampunk, which is fantasy set in the Victorian and Edwardian eras, will be celebrated at Dudley Library in St James's Road tonight (Thursday).

Published steampunk authors Meg Kingston and LM Cooke will be meeting fans of the genre. Their latest books Meg Kingston's Crystal Heart and LM Cooke's The Front Line: Volume 2 of The Automata Wars will be available to buy.

Tickets cost £3 and are available from Dudley Library. Reserve a place by calling 01384 815560 – steampunk attire is optional.

Tudor wills topic at last history talk

HISTORIAN Margaret Bradley will be giving the last in her series of talks on the History of Cradley on Thursday, November 28, at 7.30 pm.

It's entitled 'Cradley wills at the time of the Reformation'. She said: "This month we will be looking at eight wills and inventories made by ordinary people who lived in Cradley before the time of William Shakespeare."

The free talk is at Overend Methodist Mission in Banners Lane.

Recycle poppies at supermarkets

SUPERMARKET customers can recycle their Remembrance Day poppies at Sainsbury's stores in Merry Hill and Amblecote stores for the first time.

The recycling service supports the Royal British Legion and is available up to Sunday, November 24.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

I WROTE recently about Arthur Wynne who invented the crossword puzzle 100 years ago. My thanks to all of you who have written to let me know his plot in the cemetery is 4 across and 6 down.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

IF A Conservative MP had dared utter the remarks made by David Blunkett about Roma gipsies, he would have vanished under howls of disapproval and dark mutterings about Enoch Powell and "Rivers of Blood." But Blunkett is, as they say, sound. Blind from birth, he's an Old Labour son of toil, popular on both sides of the House. Blunkett warns that cultural tensions between Roma and local people could "implode" into a re-run of the 2001 race riots in northern towns. The former home secretary may be right. Britain has a brilliant record of assimilating different cultures but it's a process that works best when people arrive gradually. In 2011 the Government announced there were "relatively few" Roma citizens in the UK. Two weeks ago it was revealed that 200,000 have settled. How the hell did that happen?

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

NEITHER the Royal Commission nor the Press's own regulator will do anything about one of the most offensive forms of journalism. You know the sort of thing. The Duchess of Cambridge appears in public with a hair or two out of place. The poison-penned bitches of Fleet Street pile in like vultures on a cadaver, sneering at "frayed at the edges" Kate. The great unfairness is that Kate, and celebrities like her, are snapped a thousand times a day and are expected to look perfect in every shot. Female columnists, on the other hand, hide behind a single byline photograph, usually taken with a soft-focus lens some years ago under studio conditions after a full facial and hairdo. I recall meeting one of Fleet Street's sharper-penned ladies, face to face. I have seen better-preserved objects dragged out of pyramids. Don't let them get you down, Kate.

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MY PERFECT Christmas? Ant and Dec bite the head and limbs off that irritating Morrisons tap-dancing gingerbread man. The John Lewis bear runs out of toilet paper and uses the lovable hare instead. The warm-hearted Boots hoodie-kid is banged up until February for shoplifting. A month to go and I'm already all humbugged out.

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THANKS to I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue (Radio 4) for this medical definition. Colonnade: a fizzy enema.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

WHILE all attention is focused on gas and electricity bills, the charity Money Advice Trust reports a shocking rise in the number of families with serious mobile-phone debts, caused largely by expensive contracts for smartphones. It reports that an average family of four can easily face bills of £140 a month – more than their total energy bills. That's what happens when a novelty comes to be regarded as an essential.

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WHILE the HS2 saga rumbles noisily on it is reported that, thanks to new materials and technology, Henry Ford's elusive dream of a flying car could become reality in the next decade. This week comes news that driverless cars are to be used to ferry people around Milton Keynes on designated pathways. In California, plans have been unveiled for a 'Hyperloop' transportation system capable of carrying passenger pods through pressurised tubes at 800mph. Look forward 15 years to 2028 and we could see safe, high-speed convoys of driverless lorries and cars on our motorways, 1,000mph tube trains in the States, and executives whizzing into city centres in their airborne limousines. That is about the time that HS2, the clanking, howling, horrendously expensive Victorian solution to England's transport problems, is supposed to start running. HS2 is unwanted now. It will be obsolete then.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Prison for thief who grabbed cash from 91-year-old

HE WAS visiting his grandchildren in Brierley Hill but Clive Richards swiped £200 from the hands of a 91-year-old collecting his pension. Richards, 43, is now behind bars after being jailed for the theft.

Richards committed the crime that left the pensioner needing hospital treatment, despite having a grandchild in a pushchair with him.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that Richards distracted his victim and then grabbed the cash out his hand. The elderly man fell as he tried to stop the thief and needed hospital treatment.

Ms Rhiannon Jones, prosecuting, told the court: "The defendant had been behind him in a queue and had attempted to withdraw £20 out of his account but was told he couldn't as he had insufficient funds. He carried out a distraction theft. The defendant claimed the victim had dropped something on the floor and, as he looked down, the defendant positioned himself on the other side of the victim and took £200 in cash.

"He has then gone to walk away with a pushchair he had with him and the complainant has then attempted to prevent this and in doing so has fallen and hit his head on the floor."

The theft took place just before 9am on June 17 and Richards was later arrested in the Bristol area.

Mr Daniel White, defending, said: "Mr Richards is utterly ashamed of himself for what he did. He wasn't aware how old the victim was he knew he was elderly but not to that extent.

"He lives in the Exeter area but his grandchildren live in Brierley Hill."

Richards, of Harrington Lane, Exeter, pleaded guilty to a single charge of theft.

Judge Walsh sentenced him to 20 months in prison.

Hamiltons back on the campaign trail for UKIP

Report by Alex Ross

"I WANT you to get out on the knocker and the doorsteps and campaign," Neil Hamilton booms out to an attentive small group of UKIP party members.

"I'm sure you can't say knocker," immediately shouts out his wife Christine, who is close by.

"It is knocker single, not knockers plural," Neil instantly replies, apparent innocence ringing in his voice as he proudly wears a bright hand-painted Union Jack silk bow tie.

Laughter echoed around the small back room at the Britannia Inn Sports Bar in Wollaston, where an audience of around 50 mostly middle-aged men smiled at the couple.

The high-profile pair were on invitation from the Stourbridge branch of UKIP ahead of the campaign for next year's crucial European elections.

The 64-year-old former Conservative MP ordered a pint of bitter along with fish and chips on arrival and he was dressed in a black suit with the striking bow tie which has the word 'referendum' on either side.

Ambition

He and Mrs Hamilton were late because of traffic but they were in time to converse with the audience ahead of Mr Hamilton's talk on his career and ambition now he had been appointed campaign director for the upcoming elections – 'only 200 days away', he reminds everyone.

Mrs Hamilton took advantage of her time in the spotlight to take the subject away from politics very briefly.

She told of her time in the jungle on I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here, and then announces her disgust at the £142,000 last year's contest MP Nadine Dorries has reportedly received.

"I have been completely, extraordinarily, horrified by learning today the amount of money Nadine Dorries got paid to go into the jungle," she said.

"May I just make it abundantly clear I went in the very first programme and got absolutely nothing."

She told the audience how she first turned down the invite for the programme because of the 'tricky time' in her life when Mr Hamilton had been declared bankrupt – but then accepted the invitation a month before the show in August 2002.

"They rang me and said 'Christine will you please change your mind', so I said 'alright'. We did get the fee up a little bit, but i mean honestly, I'm not going to sleep tonight, talk about how to sell yourself."

Mrs Hamilton reflected on her time in the jungle

Pride in Britain – Mr Hamilton rallied the troops in his latest talk

Mrs Hamilton, meanwhile, kept matters more serious. Speaking about next June's European elections, he declared his party was the front-runner and issued a rallying cry to party members. "We are going to win aren't we," he shouted, "we are going to win big aren't we – and we are going to win three or four seats in West Midlands."

He also bemoaned the country's loss of power to 'international bureaucrats' in Brussels, 'enormous damage' caused by immigration and the lack of choice for voters between Labour, Lib Dems and Conservatives.

Grassroots

He called on people to join UKIPs 'great crusade' in taking back the country.

Speaking to him following the talk, he said: "If you go and speak to someone random in a bus queue, regardless of the way they have voted in the past, their view of all the big issues of the day will be much the same," he said.

"The Westminster parties are completely out of touch with their feelings. UKIP is a grassroots movement, it didn't exist 20 years ago, it's a spontaneous uprising of the people."

When asked about the recent controversies at the party, including the standing down of Stourport councillor Eric Kitson after he published racist comments online, Mr Hamilton said: "Because you have one bad apple in a barrel, it doesn't mean that all the others are not perfectly sound – giving disproportionate importance to a single individual is clearly absurd. He is no longer a UKIP member."

Will he consider standing for election again?

"Over my dead body", laughed Mrs Hamilton. "Not at my age."

Gornal Wood Crematorium

Remembrance service

Sunday 8 December 2013
11am and 3pm

This service is particularly appropriate where the funeral of a relative or friend has taken place at the crematorium, however, everyone is welcome.

Due to high demand, admission is by ticket only. Tickets are available by calling **01384 813982** or visiting the crematorium office on Tuesday 19 November after 10.30am.

At the end of each service staff will be available to show visitors around and answer any questions about the crematorium.

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Overseas orders are boost at company

BUSY engineering firm Thompson has refurbished its assembly hall as part of substantial investment programme during its 50th anniversary year.

The friction welding machine manufacturer has updated the 7,000 sq ft premises in response to strong demand for its equipment from overseas component makers.

Thompson's engineering team is currently building a number of machines at the Halesowen facility for customers in China and the USA.

The firm has also produced what Thompson believes is the world's largest direct drive friction welding machine.

Caterpillar

The 400t model – 100 tonnes more powerful than its previous biggest model – has been installed at Caterpillar's US plant in South Carolina.

Thompson has added to its range of machines for welding components including drill pipes, piston rods and truck axles.

It recently saw one of its machines installed at a French factory by hydraulic cylinder manufacturer Sahgev.

Thompson, which employs around 90 people at its base in Hereward Rise, can trace its roots back to the historic John Thompson boiler making business, established in Highfields, Bilston, in the 1830s.

The company will be bidding for more new business when it exhibits at North America's largest metal forming and welding show, Fabtech, this week.

Woman hurt in hit and run

A WOMAN suffered leg injuries after being struck by a car in a hit-and-run incident.

Help was quick to arrive as the crash happened in Dudley Road, Brierley Hill, just yards from a fire station and ambulance headquarters.

She was left lying in the road by the collision but was conscious and passers-by gathered to divert oncoming cars.

The incident happened at around 1.15pm on Wednesday, November 13.

She was treated for leg injuries and taken to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

Three year ban for show-off driver in accident

Bethany Carter, 19

A DRUNK teenage driver badly injured two friends while showing off in her Mini Cooper when carrying so many passengers that one pal travelled in the boot.

Bethany Carter, 19, had friend Graham Cooper beside her, while three more were on the rear seats and a fifth sat in the boot with the parcel shelf removed.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that she was showing off and swerving from one side to the other with music playing so loud that they couldn't hear themselves speak. Carter ignored pleas to stop from Mr Cooper.

A short distance after leaving a party the car careered into a stationary van on a straight stretch of Ettingshall Road, Coseley, before spinning three or four times.

Physiotherapy

Mr Cooper received three fractures to his left leg that will need several operations and around 12 months of intensive physiotherapy. He will never recover sufficiently to play physical sports, the court was told. Rear seat passenger Amie-Jo Lloyd suffered back and other injuries that required seven days in hospital.

Carter, who passed her driving test less than a year before the crash in July, failed a breath test after the accident, giving a reading of 81 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The legal limit is 35.

Mrs Sarah Hurd, defending, described Carter as "a lost soul".

"She has given up her nursery job, deferred college where she hoped to train for a job as a teacher," Mrs Hurd told the court.

Carter, of Lime Road, Dudley, who had no previous convictions, pleaded guilty to causing serious injury by dangerous driving and driving with excess alcohol.

She was given 12 months' detention in a Young Offenders Institution, suspended for two years, and told to do 180 hours unpaid work.

She was also given a four-month night time curfew and a three-year driving ban.

MP calls for revolution to help brightest pupils

THE GOVERNMENT should fund places for children to go to independent schools bringing on an 'education revolution', says Dudley North MP Ian Austin

by Daniel Wainwright

Mr Austin is backing proposals that would provide places in leading private schools to pupils from low or average-income families.

The Labour MP, a former minister under Gordon Brown, said the UK was falling behind international competitors with the Black Country struggling even more than other areas of the country.

Standards

He called for an 'education revolution' in the UK to boost school standards and urged the Government to introduce tough new targets to boost standards in state schools.

The MP said that every school should have at least 70 per cent of children getting five GCSEs at grade C or above, including both English and maths.

He also wants to see a University Technical College in every town to promote technical and vocational skills in advanced manufacturing, engineering and other hi-tech subjects.

Under proposals, set out by Peter Lampl, of the educational charity the Sutton Trust, places at independent schools would be available to pupils in state schools.

Mr Austin said: "We have to be honest with ourselves and admit that standards and results in too many schools are just not good enough.

"England is falling behind in world rankings and just two out of seven schools in Dudley meet the national average.

"The current system is not promoting social mobility with Sutton Trust research showing that just five public schools send more pupils to Oxbridge than 2,000 state schools – two-thirds of the entire state sector.

"Ministers should look at opening up access to leading independent day schools. All places would be available on merit alone, with parents paying a sliding scale of fees according to means."

Mr Austin added: "People in places like the Black Country are as good as anyone and they should have the same opportunities open to them that people elsewhere have taken for granted for decades."

Schools minister David Laws praised Mr Austin but said the idea may be 'too radical'. But Mr Austin has won the backing of Kathy Crewe-Read, headteacher of the independent Wolverhampton Grammar School.

She said: "WGS has a well-deserved reputation for offering excellent education but our mission is not to educate the children of the wealthy. It is to educate children – to improve their life chances by inspiring them and encouraging intellectual freedom.

"If the Government were to free up funding so that more people were able to access schools like ours, then that would be a good thing for young people. Excellent education for more young people brings better prospects for our country – it's a virtuous circle."

Time to get out the tinsel

Councillor Judy Foster promotes the festive contest with trader Shane Birch-Bastock, centre, and Councillor Zafar Islam

HOMES and businesses will be getting into the Christmas spirit with a festive display contest.

Dudley Council is running the competition in Brockmoor, Pensnett and Brierley Hill to celebrate all things Christmas from the weird and wonderful to the traditional and tasteful.

There are cash prizes up for grabs for the two best decorated homes and two best decorated businesses.

Judging will take place on November 29, the day before the Christmas lights are switched on in Brierley Hill on November 30 when the competition winners will be announced.

There will be activities throughout the town centre including a pantomime trail, live entertainment and a craft fair.

Councillor Judy Foster, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "We have organised the competition to support the regeneration of the area and to encourage shoppers and visitors.

"I hope that lots of people will come forward and take part in the competition and join in the festive fun." People who wish to enter can send an email to BrierleyHillXmasLights@outlook.com or can pick up a entry form from Brierley Hill Library and post it in the post box located there.

Cash prizes are £100 for first place in both the home and business category and £25 for second place in each category. The prize money has been donated by Brierley Hill Traders Association. Meanwhile, the Christmas lights switch on in Dudley will take place on Saturday.

NEWS in brief

Claim that dogs were running wild

POLICE were called in to search for two 'aggressive' dogs after they were spotted by school staff during an organised walk in woodland with pupils.

The dogs were rounded up after officers and specialist dog handlers were called to a wooded area between Kingswinford and Wordsley.

Around 85 pupils, aged seven to nine, from Fairhaven Primary School, had walked to Ridgehill Wood, off Lawnswood, on Wednesday, November 13, when staff saw the dogs.

A police dog handler restrained one of the dogs in nearby Quayle Grove, Wordsley, at 10.30am. The second was found around 5pm in Dudley Road, Himley.

Students work in a churchyard

STUDENTS have won praise for their efforts sprucing up a churchyard. The team from Birmingham Metropolitan College renovated gardens at St John's, Stourbridge.

Seven studying for their City & Guilds Level One Diploma in Practical Horticulture received certificates from Stourbridge in Bloom in recognition.

The college's Lynn Glazzard said: "Horticulture students started to work on the garden at St John's Church during the summer. Work is continuing and students, as part of their course, will create a rockery using symbolic plants and will construct wooden containers to plant seasonal bedding plants."

Quiz raises £8k for two charities

THE 13th annual charity quiz organised by chartered accountants Griffiths & Pegg raised £8,000 for the Breast Cancer Campaign and Ladies Fighting Breast Cancer.

The Brierley Hill firm's event was held at the Copthorne Hotel and was won by a team from NLCS Ltd in Birmingham. The quiz has raised £72,000 over the last 13 years for the charities.

Fashion shop is helping hospice

TWO fashion shows organised by a shop have raised £1,350 for Mary Stevens Hospice.

The Happy Families store in Hagley ran the events over the last few months for the Stourbridge hospice.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW WITH MARK ANDREWS

SO, according to a new study, the best place in Britain to live is in the West Midlands.

Solihull came top in this year's Uswitch Quality of Life Survey. The energy comparison service came to the conclusion after studying 138 different areas for 24 different factors including disposable income, life expectancy, and the speed of the local broadband service.

Come again? Now, I'm probably a little biased, particularly given that I don't own a computer. But it seems very hard to believe that the broadband speed is particularly crucial to the well-being of the human condition. Still, there we have it. Solihull, the best part of the UK in which to live. Particularly if you're an online gaming fan.

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MAYBE as a pretty dyed-in-the-wool Black Country 'mon' I should be more incensed, but I really can't get too excited about the ban on local dialect in the classroom at Colley Lane Primary School in Cradley.

One incensed parent said: "Some of my friends have gone on to be doctors and lawyers and I'm an engineer – the accent doesn't affect you as a person."

And of course she's right. Despite what the metropolitan trendies will tell you, there's no such thing as a 'neutral accent'. So-called 'received pronunciation' is nothing more than an effort to enforce southern accents on rest of the country. After all, the whole world revolves around the London commuter belt, doesn't it?

But, still, there is a world of difference between speaking with a Black Country accent and using incorrect grammar and syntax. Use phrases like 'Yo ay gonna do that, am yo?' in a job interview and you might as well turn up with a pumpkin on your head.

Yes, children should be taught about their history and culture. But they should also be taught that, unless they want a career making nails in a sweatshop and being paid in beer tokens only redeemable at the gangmaster's pub, such phraseology should be viewed as a quaint antiquity.

And that there are times when yo con spake proper and, times when you can't.

❑❑❑❑❑❑

THAT said, the school shot itself in the foot with the letter it sent out to parents. Aside from the pompous tone - 'zero tolerance' and the sort of silly logo you might have expected from the old East German government - there was an apostrophe missing from 'I can't'.

It also referred to 'Formal English' with an incorrect capital 'F' (formal is an adjective, not a proper noun). And there was a needless hyphen following a full stop. If you are going to launch a campaign against poor grammar, would it not have been a good idea to have arranged for an English teacher to read the letter first?

Dave and Carol Matthews with their daughters Alison, left, and Clare, right, when he was presented with a 50 year long service award

Dave Matthews, who was kitman at West Bromwich Albion for 51 years, with the club's manager Roy Hodgson before he became England boss

Albion players and mascots join supporters in a minute's applause before a match earlier this year to honour the memory of Dave Matthews

Cup final date led to a perfect match

Albion kitman Dave Matthews' dream has been fulfilled, thanks to his wife and family. **STEVE MADELEY** reports

DAVE and Carol Matthews always remembered their first date.

But then the 1968 FA Cup Final was a difficult day to forget.

The couple were later married for almost 42 years before the much-loved West Bromwich Albion kitman's death in April left his family, friends and an entire club in shock.

And it all began with a day out at Wembley 45 years ago when the then Carol Ewen was persuaded to accompany her future husband to one of the Baggies' most famous games.

"I used to work at a chemist called Bannister and Thatcher, over the road from the old Express & Star office in West Bromwich," recalled Carol, who lastweek took delivery of Dave's autobiography, Mr Albion – completed by his family in his honour.

"The club used to use our chemist for a lot of bandages, antibiotics and other things that players might need.

Dedicated

"That's how we met but our first date was the FA Cup Final in 1968.

"We went down on the official train and we were supposed to be staying at one of the lads' aunts, but she wanted us in by 10pm and, after just winning the Cup, we didn't want that. So after having a drink and a meal in London, we slept in St James's Park for the night and came back the next day!"

Three years later the couple were married and they stayed together until this year, when Dave's shock death at home in Halesowen left family and friends distraught and the future of his long-mooted autobiography in doubt.

The 67-year-old had committed three quarters of his life to print alongside freelance journalist and ghost writer David Instone when a rare heart condition claimed his life. It left Carol and daughters Alison and Clare to decide whether they should complete his work.

Carol Matthews with a copy of her late husband autobiography Mr Albion

Eventually, they used diaries, tapes and family memories to fill in the blanks and finish the story of a life dedicated to the Baggies from the age of 16, when he applied for a job as a groundsman and instead wound up in the kit room.

Carol believes there was never a serious doubt that the book, which is now in shops, would be published in honour of the man dubbed 'Mr Albion' by Baggies legend Cyrille Regis. "We thought it would be a lasting tribute to him if we could finish it," she said.

"I spoke to the girls and they decided they would like to go on and finish it, and we never really said 'no, that's it' or thought we didn't want to go on. I knew it was Dave's dream to have his book published.

"There probably were stories that Dave would have known and hadn't written down that could have gone in the book, but they were lost when he died. "David came over and talked to us and we tried to fill in as best we could.

"For about 12 years the book was in Dave's mind and he used to make notes in diaries and on tapes. Dave had passed on all of the diaries and tapes to David, and a lot of people were very good.

"They went over to Ron Atkinson's house, and when Tony Mowbray was down here with Middlesbrough to play one of the local teams, they met up with him.

"It all came together in the end. The ex-players have been extremely kind and Ally Robertson did the foreword."

The loyalty that enabled the Matthews family to complete Dave's book was the same loyalty that prompted one of the greatest ever turnouts for a Hawthorns dinner when he celebrated 50 years at the club in 2011.

A who's who of Albion players and managers from five decades converged on The Hawthorns to celebrate a barely believable half-a-century of service.

Tragically, less than two years later, the cast would assemble again to pay their respects at his funeral.

Enjoyed

Yet Carol believes the memories of his special night two years ago stuck with Dave, first through his successful fight with non-Hodgkin lymphoma and into his all-too-brief retirement.

"I think he was overwhelmed," said Carol, aged 69. "He couldn't believe that so many managers and players had given their time and made the effort to go along.

"He always got on well with people. I've never heard anybody say a bad word about him. And we saw it at his funeral as well, with all the players that turned out for him.

"It was the only job he ever had. He got a bit disillusioned with a couple of the managers and considered leaving but he always thought better of it.

"I think he would have enjoyed the finished book because there is humour in there. There is no 'kiss and tell' to it but there is a lot of gentle humour. I think he would have liked it."

● **Mr Albion (Thomas Publications) is available, priced £14.99, from Albion club shops, selected book shops and online at www.thomaspublications.co.uk**

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A SHOPPER wandering around a market got a fright when a skydiver landed on top of him. Vin Roden was visiting the Saturday market at Halfpenny Green airfield, at Bobbington, near Stourbridge, when 18-year-old Russell Monkman was forced to deploy his emergency parachute. Mr Roden, aged 30, was taken to Corbett Hospital in Stourbridge with a minor neck injury.

HOME Secretary Leon Brittan gave the go-ahead for the biggest prison-building programme of the century. It included the construction of a second jail, at a cost of £12m at Featherstone.

DAD'S Army star John Le Mesurier died at the age of 71. The actor played the debonair Sgt Arthur Wilson in the hit comedy.

1993...

RED-faced police officers and firemen carried out a fire exit inspection while male strippers Rebel Red and Steve Perry strutted their stuff in front of hundreds of screaming women. More policemen, with dogs, were summoned to Samson's Place nightclub in Oldbury, as more than 1,200 hysterical women tried to get into the 500-capacity venue.

GRAHAM Taylor's tenure as England manager was hanging by a thread after the national side failed to qualify for the 1994 World Cup, despite beating San Marino 7-1. To add to the humiliation, England went behind to the minnows after just eight seconds. The former Aston Villa boss said he would continue until told otherwise.

2003...

THE British Red Cross sparked controversy after telling volunteers not to create Nativity scenes in its shops for fears of offending non-Christians. The charity came under fire for 'stripping the Christianity out of Christmas', and Rev Colin Gibson of St Matthew's Church in Walsall said it was very sad that the faith was being suppressed. The Red Cross said it was to preserve the organisation's impartiality.

A BUS station was to get its own police station to protect passengers from thieves and drug dealers. Supt Gareth Cann said he hoped Wolverhampton bus station would get its own police base within four weeks after it was reported that many people avoided it at night.

AROUND 1,200 pupils were evacuated as a fire ripped through Dartmouth High School in Great Barr.

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LETTERS

Direct debit increase was for more than actual cost of energy

I READ that power companies are sitting on £2 billion of their customers' money in over-payments. I can well believe it.

My recent statement spent nine pages to tell me that I was expected to spend a total of £1,039 during the next 12 months on gas and electricity – a figure I totally agreed with.

Adding in £50 of costs due so far, I calculated without too much effort that the coming 12 months was going to cost me £1,089 – that is about £90 per month.

The first of the nine pages informed me grandly that my monthly direct debit was to be increased to £120!

I nearly contributed £360 to that £2 billion.

Even the customer services operative who rectified the direct debit couldn't work out how the figure of £120 a month had been arrived at.

M CALLADINE
Courtland Road
Kingswinford

Warning of thieves targeting shoppers

READERS beware – pickpockets are out and about in Merry Hill. I had my purse stolen, taken from my handbag on a Saturday afternoon in Poundland.

Apart from the obvious loss of cash, it is also the inconvenience of having to cancel all my debit/cash/credit cards, for which I won't receive a replacement for at least ten days.

It also included my driving licence and bus pass.

Yes I'm a pensioner, easy target for mindless thugs and caring for my 93-year-old mother.

To the person who stole it – enjoy spending the money on early Christmas presents. However, just stop and think how you would feel if this had happened to your mother or nan!

J GREENHALL
Kingswinford

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

HS2 will benefit the rich but at a high cost for the nation

WE are told that slashing the HS2 through the English countryside will bring great economic benefits. But what are they? There could be some benefit if the rail was built to carry freight, connecting our manufacturing centres with the sea ports.

Instead, rich people will be able to travel to London slightly quicker. MPs will undoubtedly use it, passing on the extra cost to us via their expenses.

But this would give them even less time to contemplate the deplorable effects of their actions on the people who elect them. And how will the Government pay for it? By borrowing from foreign investors?

What will happen when the present low rates of interest increase (as they surely will)? They'll have to borrow even more to pay for the extra interest. That's a recipe for national bankruptcy (if we aren't already there).

ROBERT ASTON
Oak Street
Coseley

Eye can see solution to help security

WHAT is wrong with the British Government? Many years ago, when visiting family in America, my wife and I had our fingerprints taken, and photographs of our irises.

These images were used on several occasions when we made further visits.

So, if we had been wearing a head covering, this would not have covered our eyes or hands, would it?

P COLE
Chelford Crescent
Kingswinford

Cuts should start with the council

WILL council leaders consider cutting a) their own wages, b) their expenses, c) their perks, and d) their numbers?

For example, one ward in Dudley that actually has three councillors could be managed by one councillor.

ROBERT LESLIE DUDLEY
Lower Gornal

Birthday plea for twin girls

COULD the parents of twin girls who have had a birthday recently please contact me on 01384 827995 after 3pm as cards and contents have been delivered to me in error. I have been unable to trace the rightful owners in and around the area I live.

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CLUB NEWS

Selection box talk on menu

W'TON WOMEN'S LUNCHEON CLUB

THE monthly Luncheon, held at The Lindens, Tettenhall Road, on October 23 was attended by a total of 88 people including the Mayor and Mayoress of Wolverhampton, speaker Peter Slack and guests, some of whom were gentlemen.

On the menu was chicken caesar salad, pork in a red wine sauce followed by apple crumble, tea or coffee with mints.

After the meal, the chairman Sheila Groom invited the Mayor, Councillor Milkinder Jaspal to say a few words. He said he and his wife were delighted to be invited to the club and went on to give a brief talk about his background and family.

The chairman thanked the Mayor for his talk before introducing Peter Slack, a dairy and sheep farmer in the Peak District.

His humorous talk was entitled "I'm not lost; I'm just not sure where I am". He spoke about his observations of visitors to his area.

Votes of thanks were given to the club from the guests and to the speaker by Michael Groom.

On November 27 the speaker will be Jennie Storr on "Jennie's Christmas selection box" and the menu will be Florida cocktail, roast turkey and Christmas pudding with brandy sauce.

Mayor and MP are the birthday guests

From left, Dudley Mayoress Heather Finch, president John Cartwright and Mayor Alan Finch

DUDLEY PROBUS LUNCHEON CLUB

DUDLEY Probus Luncheon Club held its 40th anniversary dinner at its usual venue, The Lodge in Wellington Road. Dudley.

The dinner was hosted by club president John Cartwright, with guests the Mayor of Dudley Alan Finch and the Mayoress Mrs Heather Finch.

The club also welcomed Dudley North MP Ian Austin. After the dinner, Probus member Alan Wedge gave a brief history of the club followed by slide show covering some of the events.

Eloquent guest speaker's topic was Mother of Pearl

KINGSWINFORD TG

KINGSWINFORD Guild met in the Community Centre in High Street on November 11.

After welcoming members, chairman Enid Fennell, welcomed two visitors, Wendy Jarratt and Linda Trehern.

After completing the essential business, members were reminded that as the December meeting will be a Christmas luncheon, and the weather in January may be inclement, they should be giving serious thought to the matter of next year's committee.

Following reading of the Federation report, members were asked to volunteer to become part of the Federation team for the national quiz. The selection will be made in the New Year and the regional round will take place in Stourbridge.

Wednesday club, rambling group, scrabble group and luncheon club all revealed the extent of their activities until the beginning of 2014.

There was an extra raffle prize, beautiful chrysanthemums presented by Doreen Comley, which had been grown by her husband. Raffle prizes were won by Sally Fowler and Sheila Watts

The speaker was George Hook who talked about his business of making products from Mother of Pearl. He was very eloquent.

There was a brisk trade at the end as members made their purchases. He was thanked by Enid Fennell.

Potential new members, or visitors are invited to join the group at the community centre, Kingswinford at 7.30 on January 13. Mr and Mrs Betts will talk about Witley Court and Gardens.

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NEWS

Goat on loose in High Street – we kid you not

Police received a call on Sunday that really got their goat – they thought it was a joke whe the caller told of a goat on the loose in Brierley Hill's High Street

The rescued Pygmy goat was taken to Brockswood Animal Sanctuary after being found in the High Street and is pictured with farm manager Sarah Beales

HE was found taking a stroll along a high street in the Black Country – and now this goat's adventurous outing has led to him being cared for by a nearby sanctuary.

The young Pygmy was taken to Brockswood Animal Sanctuary in Sedgley after being rounded up by police on Brierley Hill High Street.

Officers, who were contacted by a member of the public who spotted the creature on Sunday morning, are now trying to trace the animal's owner and have warned anyone claiming ownership will need to explain why the goat was not tagged.

Sanctuary

Pc Phil Glover, of West Midlands Police, said: "The goat was rounded up and he was taken to the animal sanctuary where he will be looked after."

People with information on the goat are asked to call officers on the non-emergency number 101.

Owner of Brockswood Animal Sanctuary Neil Swan said: "The police brought the goat, a young male Pygmy, to us and we are happy to take it in and look after it," he said.

"Although calls like this are not common they do happen. Generally it is people bringing animals to us because they can no longer look after them.

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THE WAY I SEE IT

Humbled by sacrifices made for our freedom

Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin takes the stand in our weekly Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views

ON REMEMBRANCE Day I was privileged to attend five events in Dudley.

At 11am I joined thousands of Dudley residents at Coronation Gardens to pause for a two minutes silence to remember those service men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

It was incredible to see so many people paying their respects with thousands of people attending – many more than I remember when I marched through the town on Remembrance Day with the Cubs as a child.

As I laid my wreath I reflected on how fortunate we are to live in a country where we take freedom and democracy for granted.

We owe an incredible debt to all of the people who fought and died to defend these basic values.

I also thought about the 6,000 dedicated, patriotic service personnel currently serving in Afghanistan. Their actions seek to provide stability for those whose names they do not know, in the knowledge that we as a country have responsibilities beyond our borders and that our security at home is dependent on those who serve overseas.

I also had the privilege of visiting troops at Dudley's Territorial Army base on Vicar Street. All across Britain people show huge respect and support for the work of our armed forces, but nowhere is that truer than in Dudley, where our local squadron and the wider regiment are at the heart of the community and have the freedom of the borough.

Earlier in the day, I attended the Grazebrook Remembrance Service at Grazebrook Park which I organise along with Councillors Shaukat Ali, Steve Waltho and Safeena Arshad and the Friends of Buffrey Park. We were joined by Dudley Air Cadets and several local veterans including Gordon Willetts and John Deane, who read the Words of Commemoration. Reverend Caroline Wickens kindly led our service and local singer Annie Hodkinson led the singing with a beautiful rendition of Abide With Me.

We first organised the service seven years ago after organising a campaign to get the memorial cleaned of rubbish and graffiti. This year more people than ever turned out to pay their respects. It is a very dignified and moving community remembrance service.

I was humbled to think of the contribution made by so many Dudley men and women to the cause of freedom and democracy and by the commitment of local people to remember these sacrifices.

■■■

I was concerned to hear recently that Dudley's Walk-in Centre at Holly Hall could be closed down. Just like everyone in Dudley, I've used the walk-in centre when I've needed a doctor out-of-hours. It's the best way of getting treatment if you can't get an appointment with your GP.

It's clear that the centre is popular, with 50,000 people using it every year. Any change to services at the centre has to be on the basis of better care for local people but I'm concerned that closing the walk-in centre would make out-of-hours care worse, not better.

I'm calling for the walk-in centre to be saved and, in the long run, I want to see better access for patients in the evening and at weekends. People who go to work every day ought to be able to see a GP without having to take a day off.

It's really important that as many local people as possible reply to the consultation on these plans, as that's the only way we'll get a clear plan that improves out-of-hours care.

The consultation runs until December 24. You can submit a reply by writing to FREEPOST RTGH-YKLH-AZXZ, Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group, Brierley Hill Health & Social Care Centre, Venture Way, Brierley Hill, DY5 1RU, or by responding online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/YHGYBHP.

■■■

Price hikes announced by the big six energy companies are kicking in over the coming weeks and millions of people will start paying the price for David Cameron's failure to stand up to the energy companies.

Prices and bills keep going up but wages stay the same. Under this Government, prices have risen eight times faster than wages, leaving the average family in Dudley £1,500 a year worse off.

That means that energy bills have gone up by £300 a year since 2010 and businesses say it's the biggest cost they face. But Britain's big six energy companies have seen their profits rise by a massive £3.3 billion.

It's time David Cameron took action to tackle his cost-of-living crisis but, instead of helping ordinary families by backing Labour's plan to freeze energy prices and reform the market, he's decided to take the side of the energy companies. It's another example of how he always seems to be helping the wrong people.

The next Labour Government will replace Ofgem with a tough new regulator to stop overcharging.

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Tiger Joao is eased from the lorry that brought him to Dudley

The arrival is lowered into his new enclosure on Castle Hill

Final moments before thetiger is released from his cage

Sumatran tiger Joao surveys his new domain at the zoo

Eye of the tiger is on new home and mate

DUDLEY Zoo has taken delivery of its newest resident, rare Sumatran tiger Joao.

by Heather Large

After travelling hundreds of miles by land and sea, Joao made his grand entrance at the attraction by crane.

The 20-month-old tiger, who had travelled from Krefeld Zoo, Germany, was then carefully carried into the enclosure which is on the upper level of the 40-acre site where he will be introduced to three-year-old female Daseep.

He brings with him hopes of a new generation of big cats as Joao is part of a major international conservation programme for the critically endangered species.

Tricky

Zoo chief executive, Peter Suddock, said: "The big cat Tecton enclosure is a tricky one to negotiate and we used a crane to manoeuvre the tiger into the building.

"Not only does this make the transfer easier, but it also eliminates the need to anaesthetise Joao and meant we could introduce him to the internal dens immediately and get him settled. It sounds a difficult move but it's something we've done since the zoo opened in 1937 and although it looks complicated, it's fairly straightforward and ensures Joao was in his new home and set to meet Daseep as soon as possible."

Daseep is ranked as the world's second most important female in the genetic pool for the rare sub-species which now numbers fewer than 140 in the wild.

Staff are hoping to build on their successful breeding record for Sumatran tigers. Eight cubs were born at the Castle Hill site between 2000 and 2005. It alone increased the world population of this incredible sub-species by two per cent and went on to boost programmes across the world.

Assistant curator, Richard Brown, said: "We are all delighted and relieved that Joao is here at last. He is a superb tiger and has already started communicating with the female through vocalisation. We are very hopeful he will settle in over the weekend and be out in the external enclosure to meet the public very soon."

Registrar and research co-ordinator, Dr David Beeston, said: "We hope these genetically important animals will soon breed and boost the numbers in the important European breeding population for this highly endangered species."

Four month closure of police front desk

THE front desk of a police station in Dudley will be shut for almost four months.

The front desk at Sedgley Police Station, in Vicar Street, will be closed until the end of February while maintenance work is carried out on the building.

People living in Sedgley, Gornal and surrounding areas are being urged to find alternatives, such as using the non-emergency number 101, during the closure. But Sedgley, Gornal, Upper Gornal and Woodsetton and Coseley East neighbourhood team officers will still be based at the station despite the work going on over the next few months.

Sergeant James Jones, said: "Officers will still be based at the station but the front office will be closed for safety reasons whilst essential maintenance work takes place.

"If residents have an issue or concern they would like to discuss with either myself or Sgt Cruickshank, I would encourage them to call us using the non-emergency number 101, email us or stop by at one of our many neighbourhood meetings ni the area."

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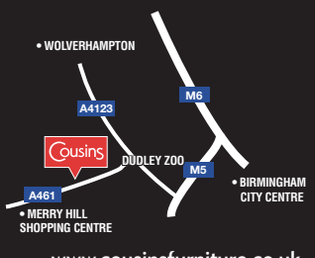

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NEWS

More than 230 homes proposed at quarry site

The vast Edwin Richards Quarry in Rowley Regis would be filled to allow 260 homes and a nature reserve to be created

AROUND 260 new homes and a nature reserve will be built on the site of a historic quarry under new plans revealed by the site owners.

Under the proposals the Edwin Richards Quarry in Rowley Regis will be restored and homes, businesses and a wildlife reserve constructed – bringing new jobs in a process that may take more than 25 years.

The latest multi-million pound plans for the quarry in Portway Road were unveiled by the owner and developer FCC Environment at a public exhibition. They include two housing options that could see either 260 homes built or a second option that would see around 235 homes completed along with a mixture of shops and businesses or a residential care home.

David Molland, senior planning, permitting and property manager at FCC Environment, said the first homes could be ready to move into within the next ten years.

We think we've struck a balance between providing the necessary elements which help deliver the restoration commercially and providing the long term vision for the restored site," he said. "Having spoken with people at the last exhibition the one thing that was really important to them was access to the site once it's complete.

Community

"Because of that we have decided to restore it and create a large open space with footpaths and play areas for the local community."

The updated proposals have been developed after extensive consultation with businesses and home owners near to the site, who asked for greater public access, provision for local wildlife and improvements to local roads.

Mr Molland added: "We are being completely honest and open with people and consultation is a really important part of the process.

"At the the end of the day something needs to be done to improve the site. The quarry will eventually need to be filled and we are working on a plan to find the best solution."

The site, a quarry for more than 100 years, is co-owned by Lafarge Tarmac, Hanson and FCC Environment. They want to regenerate the site. Soil and rubble will be used to fill the quarry.

"We've had a lot of positive comments but traffic has been a big issue for a lot of people," said Mr Molland. "To reduce disruption we will be using smaller, quieter trucks more frequently."

The quarry stopped operating in 2008 when it ran out of stone. Since then it has been used for landfill waste.

It is proposed that 'inert' materials, such as soil and rubble, will be processed at a building which is already on the site and that will be used to fill the quarry.

Material will need to be processed at a rate of eight trucks an hour to fill the vast hole. More than 530,000 tonnes of material a year will be brought on site over two and a half decades. The treatment plant will create 20 jobs during its operational phase and an on-site power station will produce electricity from gases under the landfill cap.

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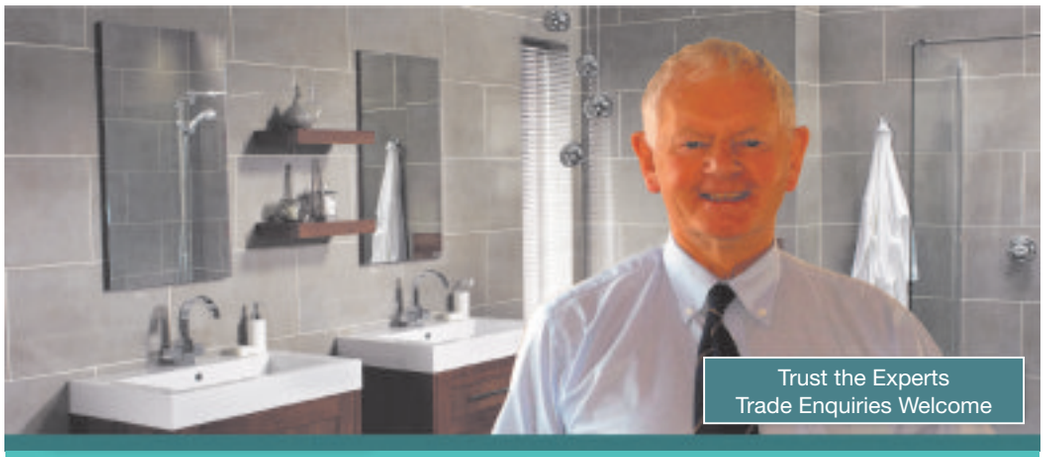
When Summerhill first started as a business in 1971 it was as more of a home improvement specialist. However, thanks to the direction of home makeover shows, the company moved with the times, expanding their range of offerings in the bathrooms arena. Today they are one of the top bathroom suppliers and fitters in the region.



"We responded to the interest in the homes boom," says MD David Spinks. "People want to invest in their homes and see it as a place to spend quality time. In the case of bathrooms people have stopped seeing them as just functional, and more as places to relax and spend luxury time." Since then, the business has grown year-on-year, thanks to the dedication of my staff and the excellent range of products, great workmanship and rapport with clients. "Our clients often become friends," says David. "We work hard to build a relationship with them that's based on trust, and ultimately total satisfaction with what we deliver."

The process starts when a customer gets in touch to discuss ideas. "We always listen clearly," says David. "We try very hard to deliver the dream, and if there are changes to be made, then they're always positive ones - maybe an idea the customer hadn't thought of, or an addition to something that would make all the difference. Our designers are hugely experienced, and can explain the technicalities in layman's terms, so everyone's very clear on the outcome."

As platinum and gold dealers for Ideal Standard, and gold dealers for top of the range Sotini, Summerhill Bathrooms supplies not only the finest products, but the very best quality staff too. Installation teams are approved by the company, and chosen for their skill and obliging manner.

"You have to remember you're working in someone's home," says David. "Doing a great job doesn't just mean the fitting - it's the clearing up when you're done, and how you deal with customers too. We pride ourselves on an end-to-end service." And when it's all done, there's a 3 year workmanship guarantee on installation as peace of mind.

Summerhill Bathrooms showroom at Pensnett has over 40 displays, all with latest and most up to date furniture and designs. A dedicated team run the showroom - Andrew Fuller (manager), Malcolm, Katy, Samantha and Shannon. And as testament to their work and service, the showroom walls are lined with thank you notes from satisfied customers, "something we're immensely proud of," says David. "It shows that we're getting it right, especially when people come back time and time again."

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NEWS

Homecoming for locomotive

Chuffed to have loco back – museum staff Adam Durnin and Peter Harrold with Julie Welch, from Lovell Partnership, and museum director Andrew Lovett outside the Black Country Living Museum

A 90-YEAR-OLD steam locomotive, which once ran on the tracks of the Earl of Dudley's mineral railway, has been restored to its former glory.

The 26-ton Winston Churchill engine will greet thousands of visitors to Dudley's Black Country Living Museum after being given pride of place outside the entrance.

It is a long-awaited homecoming for the 1923 locomotive which has been on loan to London and Cambridge Properties for around 35 years. The engine has been displayed at the Pensnett Trading Estate, near to the location of the railway line it was built to serve. But bosses last year decided it was time for the locomotive to return home.

Plinth

Officials from development firm Lovell Partnership prepared the ground and plinth outside the museum's main entrance on Tipton Road for the engine to be displayed.

The firm, which has built new homes nearby, said it was delighted to have taken part in the project.

Its support was worth around £5,000 to the museum.

Museum director Andrew Lovett said: "It is great to have the locomotive back and placed where everyone will be able to see it. We have given it a fresh coat of paint so it is back to its former glory."

Mr Lovett said he was not sure why the locomotive had not been put on display when it was first donated to the museum back in the 1970s.

Urgent care in Dudley could be changing

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Dudley
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We want to hear from local people about our proposed plans to make urgent care in Dudley better and easier to access for patients.

The proposals we are currently consulting on include:
- Moving some of the urgent care services currently provided at the Holly Hall Walk In Centre to a new Urgent Care Centre on the Russell's Hall hospital site.
- Investing extra money in family doctor services to make it easier for people to get a GP appointment.
- Making sure that all urgent care services work together more effectively for patients - including GP services at evenings and weekends and the 111 telephone helpline.

Drop-in Sessions

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Venture Way
Brierley Hill
DY5 1RU

Saturday 30th November
12pm to 4pm
Brierley Hill Lights Switch On & Christmas Fair
Insight House
Pearson Street
Brierley Hill, DY5 3BL

Thursday 12th December
12pm to 2pm
Dudley Council Plus
259 Castle Street
Dudley
DY1 1LQ

Thursday 12th December
6.30pm to 8pm
Stourbridge Town Hall
Crown Lane
Stourbridge
West Midlands
DY8 1YE

Tuesday 17th December
6.30pm to 8pm
Main Hall
Dudley College
The Broadway
Dudley
DY1 4AS

If you can't make it to one of these meetings, don't worry - there are other ways for you to find out more and have your say.
Please see our website at www.dudleyccg.nhs.uk/urgent-care for more information, or ring us on 01384 322777.

NEWS

Merry Hill festive lights event has the X Factor

The final countdown – special guests incuding singer Lauren Wright, The X Factor's Union J, Rylan Clark and Black Country TV presenter Mark Rhodes switch on Merry Hill shopping centre's festive lights

THE FESTIVE shopping season kicked off in style when thousands turned out to see X Factor favourites Union J and Rylan Clark at Merry Hill's Christmas lights switch-on.

Screaming crowds gathered to see the shopping centre's official Christmas lights switch-on and watch the singers perform on stage.

The event was hosted by former Pop Idol contestants turned TV and radio presenters Sam Nixon and Darlaston's Mark Rhodes.

Up to 9,000 tickets were sold for the extravaganza which also included performances from up-and-coming band R3 and singer Lauren Wright.

Flurries of artificial snow and a colourful fireworks display finished the big night off with a bang.

Proceeds from the ticket sales were going to Help Harry Help Others, the Brierley Hill centre's chosen charity this year. The charity was started by brave youngster Harry Moseley who battled a brain tumour until his death two years ago.

A flurry of synthetic snow as crowds numbering thousands enjoy the illumination of the Christmas lights at Merry Hill

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NEWS

Bid to ease pressure on A&E service

A £100,000 pilot project will be run at Rowley Regis Hospital to try to alleviate pressures on A&E over the busy winter period.

An acute assessment unit is being introduced to help reduce demand on Sandwell and City hospitals. It is planned to open this month.

Meanwhile, 50 new beds will be opened in Sandwell and City hospitals to cope with rising patient numbers. Extra doors are to be fitted in Sandwell Hospital to prevent the spread of infections such as the norovirus.

Vanya Rogers, spokeswoman for Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs all three hospitals, said: "It is a winter pilot programme and we are expecting it to cost around £100,000."

The unit will work like a 'front door' system, to provide patient assessments as quickly as possible.

Art's stamp of approval

YOUNGSTERS are being asked to design a Christmas stamp. Dudley Philatelic Society is running a competition for the borough's eight to 12-year-olds with prizes for the top three entries.

The design must be original, colour and on A4 paper. The entrant's name, age and address should be on the reverse of the entry which should be sent to Dudley Philatelic Society, c/o J. Southall, 1 Royal Oak Road, Halesowen, B62 0DZ. Closing date is December 6.

Amazing appliance still going after 90 years

Contest winner Mary Waite, of Halesowen, with her vintage 1920's Piccolo, and the store's managing director Robert Chapman

Harry Burrows, aged nine, who collects old vacuum cleaners

Stan and Norma Rose, with their 1954 wedding gift toaster

ONE minute it could be mincing meat or mixing a cake and the next doing the vacuum cleaning or even paint spraying.

The incredible Piccolo multi-purpose machine, made by Hammelmann Werke, may be nearly 90 years old and more likely to be found in a German museum.

But it is still in regular use in the Waite household in Halesowen. And now it has won a competition to find the oldest working electrical domestic appliance in the Black Country.

The gadget was given, still in its original wrappings, to Ivor Waite and his wife, Mary, in the 1960s by his aunt, Cicely Phipps, when she cleared out items from her London flat after the death of her husband, who bought and sold goods.

Reliable

"It does everything," said Mrs Waite, now aged 61, of Iverley Road, Halesowen.

"It's a coffee grinder, a mincer, a food processor, a vacuum cleaner, paint sprayer – you name it, it can do it.

"The attachments all plug into one machine.

"Our son, David, still uses it to vacuum his car and I use the meat mincer and the coffee grinder.

"Although it dated from the 1920s, it had never been used when we were given it and it's never broken down."

Chapmans Electrical, in Cradley Heath, launched the quest to dig out old household gadgets to celebrate a £100,000 investment at its showroom in Reddal Hill Road.

The Waite family is now being offered a prize of a modern-day appliance of their choice, which Mrs Waite said was likely to be a music centre.

"It's surprising what people have still got in good working order," said managing director Robert Chapman, who is now displaying some of the competition entries in his new high-tech showroom.

Among them is a bright chrome toaster, given to Stan and Norma Rose, of Roundhills Road, Halesowen, as a wedding present 59 years ago – and they still sometimes use it as they warm up to celebrate their diamond anniversary.

The Morphy Richards toaster was a gift from Jim Priest, son of the owner of T R Priest's electrical shop in Blackheath, where Stan, now aged 89, used to work.

And Norma, who celebrated her 84th birthday yesterday (Wednesday), said: "It's still like brand new.

"We have had other toasters since but we still use this one now and again.

"They made things to last in those days."

Also on display in the new showroom is a 1930s Electrolux vacuum cleaner entered by nine-year-old Harry Burrows, of Lapal, Halesowen, who collects sweepers.

A £25 voucher given to him as a runner-up in the competition has now been spent – on an order for a brand new Miele vacuum cleaner to add to his collection.

Other ageing electrical gems on show include a 1950s sun lamp belonging to John Chapman – no relation to the company – aged 70, of Spies Lane, Halesowen.

Meanwhile, Ken Young, aged 74, of Marquis Drive, Halesowen, submitted a transistor radio which was given to him by company founder Ewart Chapman as a Christmas present when he worked there from the age of 15.

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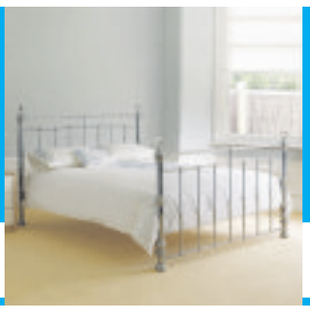

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NEWS

Love at first sight led to 60 years marriage

Diamonds are forever – Celebrating their Diamond Weddinganniversary in Pensnett are happy couple Nesta and Fred Armishaw

IT WAS love at first sight for apprentice engineer Fred Armishaw when he first laid eyes on Nesta Blurton while on a hospital ward.

The 20-year-old was at Dudley Guest Hospital for a knee operation after a football injury while playing for Hingley's of Netherton.

He had trouble sleeping and Nesta, a 21-year-old student nurse, used to make him a cup of tea and chat with him between duties. Now the couple, of Pensnett, have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary. Mrs Armishaw, now 84, said: "Fred has always told me it was love at first sight on his part but I remember not being too impressed with him at first. This was because some of the younger men were supposed to help us make the tea early in the morning for other patients and Fred was always asleep."

But it turned out to be the start of a long romance.

The couple were married at St Martin's Parish Church, in Shropshire, where Nesta was raised, on October 31, 1953. The couple have two daughters, Freda and Judith.

Pictured on their wedding day in 1953

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NEWS

Hospital governors win honour for leadership

Council of Governors representatives from Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, who are winners of a national award

GOVERNORS at a hospital trust have won a top honour for their leadership skills from judges at a NHS awards ceremony.

The party from The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust scooped the gong at the regional NHS Leadership Awards 2013.

Members of the trust's Council of Governors picked up the prestigious title of NHS Governing Body of the Year.

It came at the awards ceremony hosted by GP, comedian and broadcaster Dr Phil Hammond in Birmingham.

They received the coveted award for their dedication and commitment to providing continuity and leadership against a backdrop of challenge and change.

The NHS Leadership Recognition Awards celebrate excellence in leadership across the NHS awarding those who have demonstrated excellent leadership to make a difference to patients.

Fortunate

Dudley Group Chief Executive Paula Clark said she was thrilled the trust's governors had been recognised.

"We are fortunate at The Dudley Group to have a highly engaged Council of Governors who have developed greatly over the past three years," she said.

"As a group they have risen to their leadership challenge both inside and outside the trust, and as advocates for the views of our patients.

"They challenge and keep the board on its toes. This is always done in a constructive way.

They give of their time freely and, although they are unpaid volunteers, they take their role very seriously and professionally and work with the board to continually drive improvement at the Trust."

The Council of Governors formed in 2008 when the Trust achieved the foundation trust status and has a larger than average Foundation Trust public membership of 13,000.

The award comes as the trust also won recognition from patients from the accident and emergency department at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley and voted favourably in a survey.

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NEWS

School defends classroom move to ban Black Country phrases

A SCHOOL has defended a policy banning pupils from using Black Country slang words in class – but fans of the region's dialect insist: "Dow get rid of it. It's bostin."

Colley Lane Primary School in Halesowen has issued the ban on slang in the classroom in a bid to improve stanards of English and has sent out a letter to parents setting out what can and cannot be said by their children in lessons.

It describes the approach as 'zero tolerance', but today headteacher John White said that had been 'tongue and cheek' and that children would be corrected, not punished, for using slang in class.

Standards

He said the policy was in response to a drop in levels of English for new pupils.

He said: "I think we are seeing a decline in standards of English when children come into school.

"We are seeing that some children coming in are not able to speak very much at all to be honest.

"I think some of the changes in society – the amount of time people sit around and talk together and the amount of screen time – seem to be having an effect on how confidently children speak when starting school.

"We want to pick them up on that and improve their standards in English. It is important because it is the foundation of everything. If they can't say it, it is likely they can't read it, and even less likely they can write it."

Mr White said the new rules were only in the classroom, and children were not to be discouraged from using their local dialect slang in the playground.

He said he recognised the importance of maintaining the area's culture.

He said: "We value the dialect but we want to encourage children to learn when to use and when not, like for a job interview. It is, of course, fine to use in other situations and we would celebrate that."

He added: "We know it is a topic lots of people will be interested in, but I'm positive about it.

"If it starts to get people talking about the issue, that can only be a good thing."

The new school policy has already attracted some criticism.

Steve Pitts, who owns Teet T-Shirts in Cradley Heath – which makes shirts with Black Country phrases and recorded a Black Country Alphabet clip – said: "You cor rid of the culture, it's bostin'."

He added: "I understand you have to be able to communicate with people on your travels, but this smacks against part of the curriculum which teaches children about their culture and history.

Heritage

"The people doing this will be the same people down the line who complain we have lost our heritage."

Parent Zheyan Kareem, who has a seven-year-old boy at the school and moved to the UK eight years ago, said she thought it was a good move. The 31-year-old said: "English is my second language so for me, as a parent, it is good if my child speaks English in the house and not slang picked up at school. I believe it is good for their education."

Colley Lane School in Halesowen has defended its policy of banning Black Country slang

OFFENDING TERMS THAT HAVE BEEN OUTLAWED

These are among the slang words and phrases that have been barred from the classroom:

'they was' instead of 'they were'
'I cor do that' instead of 'I can't do that'
'Ya' instead of 'you'
'gonna' instead of 'going to'
'woz' instead of 'was'
'I day' instead of 'I didn't'
'I ain't' instead of 'I haven't'
'somefink' instead of 'something'
'it wor me' instead of 'it wasn't me'
'ay?' instead of 'pardon'

MP backing headmaster over slang

A SCHOOL'S controversial new policy on banning Black Country slang words from the classroom has been backed by an MP.

Colley Lane Primary School in Halesowen has sparked debate because of the ban, which has been introduced in a bid to raise standards of English.

Headteacher John White said he hoped the move would help children in their studies and future careers.

Pupils are now banned from using phrases such as 'gonna', 'woz' or 'it wor me'.

The policy has been backed by Dudley North MP Ian Austin. He said: "I am from the Black County and am very proud of the place I am from and my accent.

"But in the modern world when the job most youngsters get depends on their education, learning to present yourself properly is just as important as learning maths and English."

Banned

But he insisted that he loves the regional accent, adding: "I have never changed my accent, I went to Russells Hall Primary and then, what is now Castle High School."

It comes as more than 1,000 readers of The Chronicle's sister newspaper the Express & Star took part in the debate by voting in an online poll.

A total of 65 per cent said the dialect shouldn't be banned in the classroom, while 35 per cent said it should.

Councillor Tim Crumpton, cabinet member for education at Dudley Council, said: "I have no problem with teaching the children standard English in class, what I don't want is someone looking down their noses at our dialect – but, from what I can see, the school is trying to make sure the children understand good English."

At the school gate, the initative has received a mixed response. Ann Mills, aged 62, of Station Road in Old Hill, has two grandchildren at the school – a nine-year-old girl and seven-year-old boy.

She said: "I think in one way for the school it is a good idea, but at the same time it is about where these children live.

" I think we should be accepted for who we are. I'm proud of the way we speak."

NEWS

College course means business

Front centre, from left, Harry Beddow and Seba Razzak are pictured with fellow students on the BTEC level three Enterprise and Entrepreneurship course in connection with the Peter Jones Enterprise Academy at Dudley College

YOUNG entrepreneurs have proved they are dressed for success as they learn lessons of business from a Dragons' Den star.

Ambitious students from Dudley College have donned sharp suits as they aim to become the best and brightest business brains. They have enrolled in a new academy based at the college, in The Broadway, established by entrepreneur and television star Peter Jones. All are taking BTEC level three enterprise and entrepreneurship courses at the college having joined the Peter Jones Academy this year.

Guest speakers from the business world host talks with the students throughout the 12-month course to give tips on how to get to the top. There are also trips out to visit firms and the chance to work on their own ideas and pitches to potential employees.

Who's who of Who, sports and glamour stars to meet their fans at NEC shows

TV and sports stars from yesteryear will be meeting fans and signing autographs at the MCM Birmingham Comic Con and Memorabilia shows at the NEC this weekend.

Themes this year include Red Dwarf and Quadrophenia reunions, a Doctor Who line-up for the 50th anniversary of the show, Wolves stars and a bevy of beauties.

The reunion for TV sci-fi comedy Red Dwarf features Chris Barrie (Rimmer), Danny John-Jules (The Cat), Robert Llewellyn (Kryten) and Hattie Hayridge (Holly). Stars of '80s mod movie Quadrophenia in attendance will include Phil Daniels, Toyah Willcox and Daniel Peacock. The Doctor Who alumni include Katy Manning (Third Doctor companion Jo), Kai Owen from Torchwood, Frances Barber, Roger Lloyd-Pack and scriptwriter Bob Baker.

Wolves legends Steve Bull, Andy Mutch Jody Craddock are at Memorabilia on Sunday. Others celebrities include Richard Donat and Kate Felton from Haven, Josef Altin from Game Of Thrones, Call Of Duty's Craig Fairbrass, models Kyla Cole and Bex Shiner.

One ticket admits to both shows, on Saturday and Sunday, available online at www.mcmcomicon.com/birmingham and children aged 10 or younger are admitted free with a paying adult, a maximum of two children per adult.

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NEWS

Mounds of rubbish will cost £60k to clear away

A man from Rowley Regis has been jailed for eight months for allowing this huge pile of waste, stretching almost 7ft high, to be illegally dumped on a Dudley trading estate on a promise of £20,000 in cash

REACHING almost 7ft high and weighing 400 tons – this is the eyesore of illegally dumped waste on a Dudley trading estate.

The rubbish left on land at Dormston Trading Estate in Dudley saw Allan Priest. of Holy Road, Rowley Regis, jailed for eight months for allowing it to be dumped.

Environment bosses said they would not hesitate to prosecute anyone else flouting the law in a similar way.

Cash

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that Priest, 61, took out a lease in his own name at the trading estate in Burton Road in May last year on the understanding another party would drop rubbish on the land. That was on the promise of £20,000 cash.

The dumping was reported on June 7 last year and a week later, officers from the Environment Agency visited the site and said that 400 tons of waste had been dumped, including wood, plastics, soil, paint cans and rags.

The defendant was issued with a notice to clear the hill of waste on December 12. Priest admitted failing to comply with the enforcement notice by January 3 at an earlier court hearing. He also pleaded guilty on October 18 to operating a waste operation without a permit on or before June 7 last year.

The court heard the clean-up bill would be around £60,000.

Judge Mark Eades lamented that 'the principal people had got off'.

Passing sentence, he told Priest: "You knew you were a man of straw."

For running the waste operation without a permit Priest was given eight months in jail, and there was no separate penalty for failing to comply with the enforcement notice.

He also admitted breaching a community order imposed on May 14 for making indecent images of children, in that he did not attend pre-assessment appointments for courses on June 19 and September 19.

Mr Stephen Hamblett, defending, stressed that Priest pleaded guilty to all the charges.

Priest was sentenced to another six months in prison to run consecutively for breaching his community order, leaving him with a combined jail term of 14 months.

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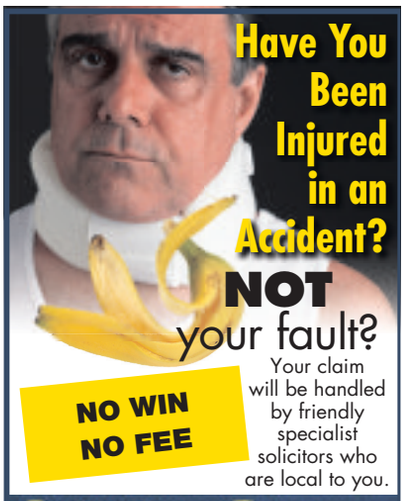

Bodies beautiful – The Teenage Mr Britain, Bradley Gilroy, far right, leads other novice bodybuilders as they pose for the crowd gathered at Brierley Hill Civic Hall

Best of British bodies on show

AROUND 70 novice bodybuilders flexed their muscles as they vied for the top spot in a competition.

Competitors, male and female, descended on Brierley Hill Civic Hall to take part in range of categories, including Teenage Mr Britain and the Open First Timers Mr Britain.

For many it was their debut in a final and organisers described the event as the 'first rung of the ladder' in a bodybuilder's career.

Hundreds of people packed into the venue, off Bank Street, on Sunday to watch as competitors took to the stage to be judged. The event was held by the National Amateur Bodybuilders' Association.

Electrician

Competitors travelled from as far afield as Blackpool to compete in the event which started at around 2pm.

And Rowley Regis bodybuilder Nick Whitehouse was celebrating after taking first place in the Open First Timers Mr Britain category.

The 30-year-old electrician, of Bryan Budd Close, had to qualify for his place in the category. He said: "I was a bit nervous but I have an excellent support team and the crowd were very supportive."

"I was delighted to take first place in the category. It is the second competition I have won and the atmosphere at the event was brilliant."

Organiser Jim Charles, a former bodybuilding champion himself, said the event had been a major success. "Some travelled miles to take part," he said.

Special guest star at the event was Andy Polhill, the association's overall Mr Universe in 2012.

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HI I'm Pam, cuddly, attractive, self-sufficient, employed, looking for similar young looking, sincere male for hopeful ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407933** 📱

FEMALE many interests, seeks male, 40-55 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408537**

28YR old female, seeking male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408639**

SUE 40's female who enjoys evenings in/out looking for someone to have some fun and hopefully get close to, go on, give me a ring. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407019** 📱

68YR old lady, likes gardening, meals out, days out, looking for sincere gent to share time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408413**

JENNY single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408285** 📱

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MARIA gorgeous outgoing bbw 27, good fun, caring, romantic, looking for that special someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408733** 📱

KIM attractive single lady new to area looking for meet new friends and maybe a new love interest. I have many hobbies and am interesting to know, pls call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408489** 📱

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 366019**

TAYLOR attractive very busty curvy black female looking for fun times with open-minded male who is also looking for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408311** 📱

CHRIS blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407615** 📱

ATTRACTIVE female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406135**

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363428** 📷

MIXED raced lady, 34, widely travelled, seeking gent, 30-40 for romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408429**

MANDY divorced independent 46yr old single mum, confident, bubbly and social, looking for male companion to share good times and to be there for each other. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407469** 📱

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CURVY Irish female 35yrs looking for fun, frolics, weekends away and lots of excitement with reliable male, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407603** 📱

SLIM active lady, 60's, N/S, seeks honest, kind gent, 57-62 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407693**

ANNABELLA board attractive 30 something nurse wanting healing hands for no strings fun. No TLC required. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407449** 📱

NICKY loving caring gorgeous fun young lady who loves swimming, dancing and lots more, seeking male for text chats and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407459** 📱

BLACK female, 45, seeking older gent, 60 plus who knows how to look after a lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407787**

PAM 71, feels younger, lots to give, socialising, theatre, country walks, charity work, seeking male to share interests with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407851**

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106**

CAROL 36, looking for older experienced gent 50-70yrs for fun times only, discretion assured and expected. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401853** 📱

SUE attractive lonely brunette who loves eves in/out, music, WLTM someone sincere to love and get close to, why not give me a call? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407021** 📱

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TRACY 35yr old blonde petite single mum, WLTM tall male for nights out, text chats and hopefully ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407215**

LYN slim size 10, 5ft 9ins, attractive with GSOH, OHAC, employed, WLTM genuine guy who is also looking to put some fun back into life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407195** 📱

DEBS 37yr old professional, outgoing, bubbly, seeking genuine man for good times in/out and just see where it leads. Single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407039** 📱

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651** 📷

NICKY 26 fun single female who has been on her own far too long desperately seeking her Prince Charming, must be tactile and possess the ability to fall in love, **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407485** 📱

MICHELLE lonely singleton, fit/slender, passionate, easy-going seeks male to cook for and generally spoil rotten in exchange for great companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407501** 📱

SINGLE MEN

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT26 To : 80098.
(T&C's below).

JOHN 59, 5ft 8ins, OHAC, GSOH, seeks lady, 46-55, likes meals out and in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403273**

TIM easygoing honest male, discreet, uninhibited, seeks similar non conformist averagely attractive, N/S female up to 65. Notts. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375065**

GENT 48, youthful outlook, likes countryside, keep fit, karaoke, seeks soul mate for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408411**

ATTRACTIVE male, 55, seeks older female, 50-70 for close, adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397189**

SHY 60yr old male, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407847**

LONELY male, 55, seeks Indian/Jamaican female, 25 plus for sincere relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408957**

MARK 44, 6ft, dark hair, businessman, interesting, seeking sporty female for meals out, day trips, country walks etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408571**

FUN loving male, 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, seeks mature female, 50-65 for meals out and daytime relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408185**

JIMMY 53 good looking, fit, genuine, honest, very loving and looking for the same in a woman. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397157** 📷

GENUINE good looking male, 39, WLTM genuine, pretty female, 24-42 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407753**

32YR old slim, dark haired, adventurous, creative, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753** 📷

JEFF 60's, 6ft 2ins, fit, seeking lady, mid 50-60's for friendship/relationship, nights in/out and good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407811**

ROMANCE wanted in Nuneaton. 5ft 10ins, medium build male, 41, seeking a relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406683**

BROADMINDED 67yr old male, fit, active, GSOH, caring, loving, seeks N/S female, open minded, 62-69 for genuine LTR. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407785**

TONY semi retired teacher with lots of interests including sport, theatre, walking, OHAC, WLTM professional female to share interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404637**

MALE 51, seeks lady to spoil and pamper. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313191**

IAN 5ft 10ins, 55, caring, honest, looking for sincere female with good personality, 45-55, enjoy being out, socialising, meals. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 382997**

MATURE land owner, GSOH, youthful outlook, likes countryside, socialising, history, seeks lady who appreciates good food/conversation with view to relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408417**

BROADMINDED 42yr old male, GSOH, caring, loving good personality seeks female for fun friendship, relationship and adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404623**

MATURE male, lonely, no ties, attractive, likes TV, reading, walks, holidays, meals out, seeks attractive, smart female, 65-72 to share simple things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408183**

MAURICE Shropshire farmer, 43, seeks farming lady of any age to share the good things in life with view to LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 374021** 📷

MALE 58, good looking, placid, seeks honest, loyal, caring female with view to becoming soul mates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400313**

SINGLE male, youthful, serene, seeks similar down to earth non materialistic female to become everlasting soul mates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407711**

CHRIS divorced, 55, smoker, seeks female, 30-45 for lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407715**

GAY SINGLES

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892** 📷

GAY guy 58, Shropshire, seeks male 30-80 for friend, companion or long-term relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407819**

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NEWS

Leasowes students impressed with skills

BLACK Country secondary schools proved they have what it takes to make it in manufacturing by inventing the transportation solutions of the future in a competition.

A team from Leasowes High School in Halesowen beat 11 other schools in the Make It with The Skills Factory Challenge, a collaboration between The Manufacturing Institute and The Black Country Skills Factory.

The 13 and 14-year-olds had to set up their own mini-manufacturing businesses and were tasked with designing, building and marketing a future transport solution for their choice of customer.

Managers

Teams members each took on job roles from managing director to operations managers through to finance, sales and marketing managers.

They were also challenged with developing a brand for their company before pitching their fully costed ideas in a Dragons' Den-style presentation to manufacturing industry leaders from across the region including representatives from United Technologies, ZF Lemforder UK, Huf UK, Hadley Industries and Caterpillar Wolverhampton.

Judges praised the Leasowes team whose 'flying bullet' vehicle was designed for business people to whizz through towns and cities.

The judges were really impressed with the team's use of lightweight materials and how they had considered their customer throughout their business ideas.

The students representing Leasowes High School at the prestigious event

The winning team and teachers are pictured celebrating outside Molineux

The team from Aldersley High School in Wolverhampton came a close second with their environmentally-friendly FTS, which ran on tracks and used bio-diesel to reduce the impact on the environment.

Outstanding individuals on the day were Kieran Bradley from Brownhills School and Charlotte Bradley from Moreton School. Both won plaudits for their all-round enthusiasm and can-do attitude throughout the day.

This special event was used to launch The Skills Factory's programme of work with local schools.

It will see the challenge being rolled out to 25 schools across the Black Country region in partnership with the local education business partnerships.

Colin Parker, director at The Skills Factory, said: "The Skills Factory are extremely pleased to be collaborating with the Manufacturing Institute and industry leaders to encourage young people to find out more about manufacturing and the scope of employment opportunities available to them, from the shop floor to managers and marketing specialists."

The top two schools will now go through to Make It's grand final which is to be held next summer.

star extra TRAVEL

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Rome was, is, and probably always will be, one of the world's most compelling cities.

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The tour of Ancient Rome features the law courts and the Podium and not forgetting two of the most famous centres of 'entertainment' the world has ever known: the Circus Maximus and the Colosseum. No visit to Rome is complete without experiencing these magnificent sights.

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What's On!

REVIEW

Bellowhead Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BELLOWHEAD are not so much a folk band as an 11-player orchestra. They know how to put on a show, infect people with enthusiasm and they are dripping with talent.

Sam Sweeney as a lone piper opened proceedings under a single spotlight, followed by John Boden's distinctive voice coming through the darkness before the full band was revealed to applause from a sold-out crowd.

Jordan was one of the opening songs which set the pace for the rest of the night with the band never letting up, much to the delight of the fans.

They followed this up with 10,000 Miles Away, a track from their most recent album Broadside, which gave free rein to the animated brass section comprising Andy Mellon on trumpet, Brendan Kelly on sax, Ed Neuhauser on the mighty tuba and Justin Thurgur on trombone. These were backed up by Pete Flood on the drums and frying pan, John Spiers on melodeon and Benji Kirkpatrick on banjo.

As the night went on there was a bewildering amount of instrument changes that was as much a spectacle as the performance and songs themselves.

The audience became the 12th man for another favourite from Broadside, Roll the Woodpile Down. Towards the end they kept the audience hopping with one of their most popular hits New York Girls.

DANNY FARRAGHER

There is no escape from this rising star of comedy scene

McBusted team up is a smash hit

FOLLOWING the astonishing success of their reunion at the Royal Albert Hall for McFly's tenth anniversary concert, Tom Fletcher, Danny Jones, Dougie Poynter and Harry Judd have announced they will join forces with James Bourne and Matt Willis, of their former pop rivals Busted, as supergroup McBusted for a UK arena tour.

The response of fans to the Busted/McFly reunion has been phenomenal, despite the absence of Busted singer Charlie Simpson who left the band in 2005 and is not taking part in the reunion.

McBusted have added several dates to meet the clamour for tickets after #mcbusted became the top worldwide trend on Twitter. Together Busted and McFly sold 15 million records worldwide and chalked up 14 number ones, 20 top 3 singles and 27 top ten singles.

Fans can expect a nostalgic set full of favourite Busted and McFly hits, plus a few surprises, when they play gigs at Birmingham LG Arena on May 2, 3 and 17. Tickets are £39.50 for the LG (plus fees) and are available from www.livenation.co.uk or www.ticketmaster.co.uk

If it ain't McBusted why fix it? The noughties' top boy guitar bands join forces

THERE is no getting away from funnyman Andrew Lawrence at the moment. The comic, a double Edinburgh Comedy Award nominee, brings his new show to Wolverhampton early next month.

For anyone feeling their life is so awful that they wish they could disappear and never be found, this show should be right up their street.

The comedian performs his 'There Is No Escape' show at the Slade Rooms, in Broad Street, on December 8.

Winner

A winner of the BBC New Act of the Year in 2004, Lawrence has since made a name for himself on the stand-up circuit as well as landing a role in the BBC TV sitcom Ideal.

A Sony Radio Award nominee, Lawrence has twice been shortlisted for the Best Headline Act at the Chortle Award, has appeared on Live At The Apollo and has an acclaimed radio 4 series that bear his name.

Tickets for the Wolverhampton show, which start at 8pm, are priced at £15 or £13 and available on 0870 320 7000 or online at www.wolvescivic.co.uk

Andrew Lawrence – he is exploring the funny side of feeling really fed up

Ned reunion gig

BLACK Country band Ned's Atomic Dustbin are marking their 25th anniversary with gigs including Birmingham O2 Academy on Saturday night. The band, fronted by Jonn Penney, will play along with Cud, Republica and DJ Steve Lamacq.

REVIEW

One Night of Queen, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

THEY brought their own kind of magic to Wolverhampton and the packed Grand Theatre lapped it up.

From the moment the lights started to flash and the beat struck up, people were singing along to all their favourites as One Night of Queen proved the group's music is as popular as ever.

This tribute band ran through the well-known and not so well-known songs with frequent requests for people to clap and join in all happily met.

Strut

Although Gary Mullen's voice was nowhere near as powerful as the legendary Freddie Mercury, he certainly had all the moves with the struts and sexual innuendos

The band was excellent, with superb solos from the drummer and lead guitarist but sometimes they did tend to drown out the singing, which was a shame on the more poignant songs.

However, everyone seemed to be in party mood and every time Gary stripped off his jacket or T-shirt the crowd did erupt into screams and furious applause – and he was loving every minute of it.

Coming back on stage at the end for the obvious encore – this group proved that they are still the champions.

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SATURDAY'S TV 23.11.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Dermot O'Leary

The X Factor
ITV, 8pm

They may be ratings rivals, but there are obviously a few X Factor fans working on Strictly Come Dancing – this year alone, we've seen routines performed to What Makes You Beautiful by One Direction and Wings by Little Mix. So, it seems only fair that this week the remaining acts on the Simon Cowell's singing contest are also getting the chance to raid The X Factor songbook by performing hits by past contestants. And for anyone fancying a go at Trouble or Dance with Me Tonight, be warned – Olly Murs is this week's guest performer. Dermot O'Leary presents.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Football Focus. **12.15** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.30** Live Rugby League World Cup. **3.00** Live Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix – Qualifying. **5.20** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.40** Pointless Celebrities. A Doctor Who special, with contestants including Sylvester McCoy. (R)

6.30 Strictly Come Dancing. Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly present another ballroom battle.

7.50 Doctor Who: The Day of the Doctor. As an ancient battle reaches its conclusion, the Doctor's past comes back to haunt him and the whole of reality is at stake. Sci-fi adventure, starring Matt Smith and David Tennant. Also being shown simultaneously in a number of UK cinemas.

9.05 Casualty. Fletch's domestic problems compromise his work.

10.00 The National Lottery Live. Chris Evans reveals the results.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Including highlights of Everton v Liverpool; National Lottery Update.

11.55 The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games in the Championship, League One and League Two.

1.15 Weatherview. **1.20** BBC News. **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Live Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix – Qualifying. **5.05** Final Score. **5.20** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.40** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **6.30** Strictly Come Dancing. **7.50** Doctor Who: The Day of the Doctor. **9.05** Casualty.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.50 Film:** The Company She Keeps. (1951) **8.10 Film:** The Happiest Days of Your Life. (1950) **9.30** Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix – First Practice. **11.15** Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix – Second Practice. **12.55** Live Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix – Third Practice. **2.05** EastEnders. **3.00** Flog It! (R) **4.00** Inspire: The Olympic Journey. With Louis Smith and Lizzie Armitstead. (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.30** Live International Rugby Union.

8.00 Dad's Army. The platoon takes a loose barrage balloon off to the woods to secure it to a tree, but an accident sees it float away – taking Captain Mainwaring with it. (R)

8.25 QI XL. Extended edition. Sarah Millican, Jason Manford and Bill Bailey join regular panellist Alan Davies as host Stephen Fry asks a range of unusual questions on the topic of keeps.

9.15 Comet of the Century: A Horizon Special. An examination of how the passage of Comet Ison through the solar system could give insights into some of the greatest mysteries of science, including where Earth's water came from.

10.15 DH Lawrence: A Journey Without Shame – A Culture Show Special. Retracing the Alpine journey DH Lawrence made in 1912.

11.15 Film: Bright Star. (2009) Biopic telling the story of 19th-century romantic poet John Keats' three-year relationship with neighbour Fanny Brawne. Starring Ben Whishaw, Abbie Cornish and Paul Schneider.

1.05 Film: The Big Picture. (2010) **2.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Canimals. (R) **7.25** Scooby. **7.35** Horrid Henry. **7.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **8.15** Bottom Knocker Street. **8.30** Munch Box. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Home of Fabulous Cakes. (R) **10.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.35** Surprise Surprise. (R) **12.35** Dinner Date. (R) **1.35** Doc Martin. (R) **2.35** All Star Mr & Mrs. **3.35 Film:** Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi. (1983)

6.05 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 New You've Been Framed! A tiny archaeologist digs up more than anyone bargained for.

7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. With Vic Reeves, Jenni Falconer, Michael Buerk and Francine Lewis.

8.00 The X Factor. The remaining acts celebrate the best of the show, from the most memorable performances to hit singles released by past contestants, and there is live music by Olly Murs.

9.30 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Ant and Dec present the latest jungle stories.

10.30 The Jonathan Ross Show. With Gary Barlow, Dame Edna Everage, Simon Pegg and Michelle Keegan.

11.35 ITV News; Weather.

11.50 Take Me Out. A dance instructor, a footballer, a student and an events manager take part. (R)

12.55 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** Volleyball. (R) **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** The American Football Show. **10.05** Frasier. (R) **10.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** Heston's 80s Feast. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.35** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.05 Come Dine with Me. Natashka Ingham hosts the final dinner party from Lincolnshire. (R)

6.35 Channel 4 News.

7.05 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. Phil Coulson and his agents pick up the pieces in the aftermath of the events chronicled in Thor: The Dark World, but circumstances threaten to destroy a member of the team. (R)

8.00 Stonehenge: Walking Through History. New series. Tony Robinson embarks on a walk across Wiltshire, from Avebury to Stonehenge, telling the story of the development that occurred in the latter days of the Neolithic era.

9.00 Killing Kennedy. A fact-based account of how US president John F Kennedy and his killer Lee Harvey Oswald crossed paths on that November afternoon in 1963. Drama, with Rob Lowe and Will Rothhaar.

10.55 Film: Devil. (2010) Horror, starring Chris Messina.

12.35 Stand Up for the Week. (R) **1.20** Paddy's TV Guide. (R) **2.05** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.10** 90210. **4.50** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.45** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.05 Film:** Doctor Who and the Daleks. (1965) Sci-fi adventure, starring Peter Cushing. **11.45** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **12.10** Ben Fogle's Animal Clinic. (R) **1.10** Stobart: Trucks, Trains & Planes. (R) **2.10 Film:** An Old Fashioned Christmas. (2010) Period drama sequel, starring Jacqueline Bisset. **3.55 Film:** A Christmas Visitor. (2002) Drama, starring Reagan Pasternak and Aaron Ashmore. **5.40 Film:** Single Santa Seeks Mrs Claus. (2004) Comedy, with Crystal Bernard, Steve Guttenberg and Dominic Scott

7.20 Film: Mrs Miracle. (2009) A talented housekeeper helps a widowed father of twin boys to turn his life around and rediscover his love of music. Family drama, starring Doris Roberts and James Van Der Beek.

9.05 5 News Weekend.

9.10 Battle Scarred: Soldiering On. Chris Terrill examines how the loss of comradeship can affect ex-service personnel in civilian life and visits a Newcastle-based group helping veterans. Last in the series.

10.00 Film: The Fugitive. (1993) A doctor convicted of his wife's murder goes on the run, hoping to track down the one-armed man he believes is the real killer. Thriller, starring Harrison Ford and Tommy Lee Jones.

12.35 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Gladiator: The True Story. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great TV Mistakes **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **9.05** Doctor Who Live: The Afterparty **10.05** Doctor Who: The Ultimate Guide

BBC Four
7.00 Frozen Planet **8.00** Stories from the Dark Earth: Meet the Ancestors Revisited **9.00** Borgen **11.00** Kings of 70s Romance

ITV2
3.45 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **4.45 Film:** Peter Pan (2003) **7.00 Film:** The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997) **9.30** The Xtra Factor **10.30** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.35** Fake Reaction

ITV3
3.00 Film: Columbo: Double Exposure (1973) **4.30** A Touch of Frost **6.30** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Bomb Girls **11.00 Film:** Bird on a Wire (1990)

ITV4
12.45 Live Snooker. The first Champion of Champions semi-final. **5.15** Police, Camera, Action! **5.45** Storage Wars **6.45** Live Snooker. The second Champion of Champions semi-final. **11.15 Film:** Jaws 3 (1983)

E4
3.35 Rules of Engagement **4.35** How I Met Your Mother **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **7.30** Suburgatory **8.00** New Girl **9.00 Film:** Assault on Precinct 13 (2005) **11.10** The Inbetweeners **11.45** The Big Bang Theory

Film4
2.50 Cocoon (1985) **5.05** Carry On Behind (1975) **6.55** The Wedding Planner (2001) Romantic comedy, with Jennifer Lopez. **9.00** Beverly Hills Cop III (1994) Comedy sequel, starring Eddie Murphy. **11.00** Berberian Sound Studio (2012)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 24.11.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

David Dimbleby

Britain and the Sea BBC1, 9pm
David Dimbleby continues his maritime jaunt around the coastline of Britain, as he steers his yacht towards the south-east coast. It is here throughout the ages that enemy forces have made their first points of attack, and has therefore been instrumental in the nation's defences. Along the way he takes a tour of HMS Victory, Nelson's flagship vessel from the Battle of Trafalgar. A far more unlikely piece of history from the Wars comes in the form of a chamber pot, which David learns was a key piece of propaganda in the fight against Napoleon.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live 2013. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.45** Points of View. **3.00** Live Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix.
6.05 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
6.25 Countryfile. John Craven presents archive items on science, including profiles of naturalist Gilbert White and palaeontologist Mary Anning, and how Hollywood can help breed the perfect pig.
7.20 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman reveal which couples are in the dance-off, leaving their fates in the hands of the judges, and operatic pop quartet Il Divo perform.
8.00 The Paradise. Denise sets up a meeting with a potential new investor, only for her work to be undermined. Katherine confides in Moray – unaware Tom has been watching their intimacy grow.
9.00 Britain and the Sea. David Dimbleby learns about invasion and defence on the south-east coast, taking a tour of HMS Victory and revealing how a chamber pot helped in the battle against Napoleon.
10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
10.25 Match of the Day 2. Cardiff City v Manchester United and Manchester City v Tottenham Hotspur.
11.25 Film: Soul Men. (2008) Comedy, starring Samuel L Jackson and Bernie Mac.
1.00 Weatherview. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.10 Film:** Morning Glory. (1933) **7.20 Film:** Murder on a Honeymoon. (1935) **8.35** Alan Titchmarsh's Garden Secrets. (R) **9.35** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **11.45** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **12.30** EastEnders. **1.30** Live International Rugby Union. **4.00** Rugby League World Cup. **4.45** Coast. (R) **4.55** Songs of Praise. **5.30 Film:** The Tuxedo. (2002) Adventure, starring Jackie Chan.
7.00 Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix – Highlights. Suzi Perry presents action from the concluding round of the season at Interlagos, where the drivers looked to end the campaign in style.
8.00 Great Continental Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo travels through Bohemia and Bavaria, test driving a state-of-the-art passenger train in Pilsen and sampling the spa waters of Marianske Lazne.
9.00 Morecambe and Wise: The Whole Story. Part one of two. Dean Lennox Kelly narrates a documentary charting the comedy duo's rise to stardom, beginning with a look at the early years of their act.
10.30 Hebburn. Pauline is bullied at work by a fellow estate agent. (R)
11.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. Jack Whitehall hosts, with Johnny Borrell, Aston Merrygold, Katy B and Alex Brooker. (R)
11.30 Film: The Daisy Chain. (2008) Horror, starring Samantha Morton, Steven Mackintosh, Mhairi Anderson and David Bradley.
12.55 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.50** Holby City. (R) **2.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Canimals. (R) **7.25** Sooty. **7.35** Horrid Henry. (R) **7.50** Victorious. **8.15** Bottom Knocker Street. **8.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Storage Hoarders. (R) **10.30** Sunday Side Up. **11.30** Sunday Scoop. **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Inside the National Trust. **1.35** Love Your Garden. (R) **2.35** The X Factor. (R) **4.05** All Star Mr & Mrs. (R) **5.05** You've Been Framed! (R) **5.35** Prize Island.
6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.45 ITV News; Weather.
7.00 Surprise Surprise. Diversity and Roberto Martinez take part.
8.00 The X Factor Results. The remaining contestants collaborate with JLS, One Direction perform their new single Story of My Life and there is also music by Mary J Blige. Dermot O'Leary hosts.
9.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! The surprises keep coming for the campers as they spend another day coping with the horrors of the jungle, and one of them has to take part in a live Bushtucker Trial.
10.30 ITV News; Weather.
10.45 Off Their Rockers. A pensioner's wheelchair is clamped. (R)
11.15 Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the latest top-flight fixtures.
12.15 The Store. Home shopping. **2.15** Motorsport UK. **3.05** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The American Football Show. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** Gadget Man. (R) **3.25 Film:** Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country. (1991) **5.35 Film:** Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs. (2009)
7.25 Channel 4 News.
7.55 The Political Slot. Election candidate for Hampstead and Kilburn Maajid Nawaz tours the constituency.
8.00 Finding Babylon's Hanging Garden – Secret History. Oxford academic Stephanie Dalley tries to solve the mystery of the wonder of the ancient world, which she believes belonged to another time and was built at a different location.
9.00 Homeland. Carrie and Quinn pursue a key suspect, Saul deals with a political backlash, the strain of the job takes its toll on Fara, and the Brodys receive startling news.
10.00 Was It Something I Said? With Vic Reeves and Josh Widdicombe. Last in the series.
10.30 Toast of London. Steven gets into trouble with Michael Ball. Last in the series.
10.55 Fresh Meat. Vod tries to break up with Javier. (R)
11.50 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. With Micky Flanagan, Sheridan Smith and some of the Made in Chelsea cast. (R)
12.50 American Football Live. **4.45** KOTV Boxing Weekly. (R) **5.10** Countdown. (R) **5.55** River Cottage Bites. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. **10.00 Film:** Daleks' Invasion Earth: 2150 AD. (1966) **11.35** Cowboy Builders. (R) **12.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.35 Film:** A Boyfriend for Christmas. (2004) **3.25 Film:** Noel. (2004) **5.15 Film:** Annie Claus Is Coming to Town. (2011)
6.55 Film: Entrapment. (1999) An elusive art thief is pursued by an insurance agent, who teams up with him to plot the robbery of a lifetime. Crime thriller, starring Sean Connery and Catherine Zeta-Jones.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Hitler's 9/11. Documentary exploring how Nazi strategists planned to fly aircraft into Manhattan's skyscrapers in an attempt to psychologically destabilise the American people.
10.00 Film: Valkyrie. (2008) Fact-based thriller, starring Tom Cruise.
12.15 7 Days That Made the Führer. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Gadget Show. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Doctor Who **8.20** Doctor Who Live **9.15** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **10.00** Family Guy **10.25** The Revolution Will Be Televised **10.55** American Dad! **11.40** Backchat with Jack Whitehall and His Dad
BBC Four
7.00 Amazon **8.00** The Man Who Discovered Egypt **9.00** Madness in the Desert: Paris to Dakar Rally **10.00** The RTS Huw Wheldon Memorial Lecture 2013 **10.45** Nina Conti – A Ventriloquist's Story: Her Master's Voice **11.45** John Denver: Country Boy
ITV2
3.55 Film: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **5.50** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **6.50 Film:** The Incredible Hulk (2008) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** You've Been Framed! **10.30** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.30** Tricked: Favourite Tricks
ITV3
2.35 A Touch of Frost **4.35** Inspector Morse **6.45** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Blue Murder
ITV4
12.45 Live Snooker **5.15** Police, Camera, Action! **5.45** Storage Wars **6.45** Live Snooker **10.00 Film:** Village of the Damned (1995)
E4
3.45 How I Met Your Mother **5.45** Rules of Engagement **6.15** The Big Bang Theory **7.45 Film:** Crocodile Dundee II (1988) **10.00** Rude Tube: Ultimate Stunts **11.00** The Inbetweeners **11.35** Drifters
Film4
3.10 Akeelah and the Bee (2006) **5.20** The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992) **7.00** Leap Year (2010) **9.00** The A-Team (2010) **11.15** I Am Breathing (2013)

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Film Choices

MONDAY

The Gingerbread Man, Channel 5, 11.40pm

A lawyer is shocked to learn of his girlfriend's traumatic upbringing and launches a personal crusade to see her violent, abusive father brought to justice. He succeeds in having him committed to an asylum – little suspecting he is setting the scene for a deadly confrontation. Robert Altman's legal thriller based on John Grisham's novel, starring Kenneth Branagh, Embeth Davidtz, Robert Downey Jr, Robert Duvall, Famke Janssen and Daryl Hannah. (1998)

TUESDAY

When a Man Loves a Woman, BBC1, 11.35pm

A couple's outwardly idyllic marriage is close to disintegrating through the wife's alcoholism, prompting her husband to resort to desperate measures to make her give up drinking for their children's sake. However, he is also forced to face up to the part he played in allowing her life to go off the rails. Drama, with Andy Garcia, Meg Ryan, Lauren Tom, Ellen Burstyn, Tina Majorino and Mae Whitman. (1994)

WEDNESDAY

Swordfish, Channel 5, 10.30pm

A computer hacker recently released from prison is recruited by a mysterious criminal to help him embezzle millions of dollars. The plot draws him into the world of international espionage as he discovers his new employer is a former US anti-terrorist operative planning to steal from his old government paymasters. Thriller, starring John Travolta, Hugh Jackman, Halle Berry, Don Cheadle and Vinnie Jones. (2001)

Troy, Friday, Channel 5, 9pm

THURSDAY

Love at the Parade, Channel 5, 3.15pm

The organiser of Chicago's Thanksgiving parade is furious when a consultant is brought in to take charge of the event's finances, thinking he is only interested in profit. But when she suffers an unexpected crisis, she finds support in her previously unwanted colleague, and begins to fall for him. Romantic drama, with Autumn Reeser and Antonio Cupo. (2012)

FRIDAY

Troy, Channel 5, 9pm

A Trojan prince elopes with the king of Sparta's wife, sparking a bitter and bloody war between a mighty alliance of Greek kings and the city of Troy, whose champion engages in intense personal conflict with the enemy's most formidable warrior. Wolfgang Petersen's adventure, inspired by Homer's epic poem The Iliad, with Brad Pitt, Eric Bana, Orlando Bloom, Brian Cox, Sean Bean, Peter O'Toole and Diane Kruger. (2004)

Pick of the Week

The Tardis welcomes back a former Tennant

It's here at last, the moment all Doctor Who fans have been waiting for... At 5.15pm on November 23, 1963, a TV legend was born, but in rather inauspicious circumstances.

The broadcast took place a day after the assassination of US President John F Kennedy, and as a result, nobody was really paying that much attention to the arrival on British screens of a white-haired old gent who claimed he could travel through space and time in a police box that was bigger on the inside than it was on the outside.

But, just a few weeks later, it was regarded as a phenomenon thanks to the debut appearance of the Daleks – and it's been much-loved by millions ever since.

Now the sci-fi classic is celebrating its 50th anniversary, and current showrunner Steven Moffat is as excited as anybody about this special episode, which will also be broadcast and shown in cinemas in 3D.

"Since I was a little boy, the idea of writing a Doctor Who story at all was remarkable enough to me," he reveals. "But writing the 50th special was exciting and terrifying – everything that showbiz should be.

"I didn't want this to just be a celebration of 50 years of the past. I wanted it to be a celebration of the mythology and legend of the Doctor and all that entailed.

"This should be the first step on the next journey, guaranteeing the 100th anniversary. The story focuses on the most important thing that ever happened to the Doctor. We very rarely do that in Doctor Who as it's usually about the people the Doctor meets or the companions that travel with him. This time it's different."

How different we're just not sure – Moffat is frankly brilliant at keeping the plots of Who stories top secret, even if it means telling a few little white lies along the way.

What we do know is that David Tennant is returning to the Tardis alongside Matt Smith, and they'll be joined by John Hurt as an incarnation of the Time Lord that the Doctor himself would rather forget.

Billie Piper is also back as Rose Tyler, and those who love Tom Baker's era will be thrilled about an appearance by the Zygons, shape-shifting aliens who haven't been seen since 1976.

"With John Hurt we have serious acting royalty and that was the intent of John's character," explains Moffat. "John is one of the most distinguished actors this country has produced and has now become part of Doctor Who mythology.

"The Zygons, without question, are a design classic. They are superb – brilliant from the voice, to the appearance. Essentially, we've resurrected exactly the same Zygon as Tom Baker fought back. They are beautiful, and it'll show that the special looks forward to the future of Doctor Who and also celebrates the legend."

We're guessing a few more people will be tuning in to this episode than did so in 1963 – and anybody who misses it will feel as alien as a Cyberman when it comes to Monday morning's school and work discussions!

Doctor Who: The Day of the Doctor, Saturday, BBC1, 7.50pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Ripper Street

BBC1, 9pm

Given the calibre of cast, crew, and the international appeal, there's perhaps little wonder this series has found favour worldwide. The latest offering involves the murder of Telegraph Boy Otto Roberts. When he is found strangled, Detective Inspector Edmund Reid and his fellow crime busters attempt to expose a vice racket run from the offices of the GPO. The case takes Reid to the heart of Barings Bank, one of the city's most revered financial organisations. Before long the team uncovers blackmail, impending economic disaster and crooked financial dealings. With a great cast including Matthew Macfadyen, Jerome Flynn and Adam Rothenberg, as well as some superb attention to detail, this is a welcome change from the usual cops and robbers dramas.

The Choir: Sing While You Work

BBC2, 9pm

You've got to hand it to choirmaster Gareth Malone – his determination cannot be rivalled. However, he's going to need more than determination (and his signature bow tie) tonight, as he tackles what could be his biggest challenge yet. He's hoping to turn staff at Cheshire Fire and Rescue into an all-singing, all-beaming group of folk ready to take on his other choirs. But he's got his work cut out. At audition stage, the alarm is raised and bells and blue lights bring an abrupt halt to proceedings, as the station gets to work. Once rehearsals get under way, Gareth's next task is to give the back-room staff the confidence to stand tall and sing proud.

TUESDAY

Last Tango in Halifax

BBC1, 9pm

A wedding day should be the happiest time of your life, preferably surrounded by loved ones, not by a butcher who'd rather be somewhere else and an indifferent, on-duty policeman. And when Alan (Derek Jacobi) considers paying the witnesses £20 he manages to dampen some of the romance. Little wonder his bride Celia (Anne Reid) is a little miffed. The service is eventually interrupted by Gillian (a scene-stealing Nicola Walker), who has a go at her dad for being so selfish. Meanwhile, as Caroline (Sarah Lancashire) finds a way to buy John out of the house, her relationship is threatened by Kate's desire for a baby. Sally Wainwright's brilliant, bittersweet comedy also stars Tony Gardner and Nina Sosanya.

The Sound of Musicals

Channel 4, 9pm

When Andrew Lloyd Webber needed to solve a problem like finding an actress to play Maria in his revival of The Sound of Music, he turned to reality TV for help. But when it comes to the tricky business of casting a West End musical, not every producer is able to hand the decision over to the public. Take Kenny Wax for example – he struck lucky when putting on his staging of Top Hat, and recruited actor Tom Chambers, a former Strictly Come Dancing champion and Casualty star who could tap, sing and already had an army of fans. But as Chambers approaches the end of his contract, Wax needs to find another 'triple threat' to take over the role, a search that ultimately takes him to Broadway.

The Sound of Musicals, Tuesday, Channel 4, 9pm

WEDNESDAY

Treblinka: Inside Hitler's Secret Death Camp

Channel 5, 9pm

It was a place of almost unimaginable horror, yet for many years, it seemed as if the Treblinka concentration camp had left no trace of its ever having existed. Located in north east Poland, the concentration camp was where the Nazis murdered more than 800,000 people between 1942 and 1943. Many more were forced to serve as slave labour. The camp was then dismantled in 1943, and anything the Germans authorities didn't destroy, time and the seasons concealed. Some Holocaust deniers have even questioned whether it ever existed at all. But earlier this year, British archaeologist Caroline Sturdy Colls embarked on a mission to reveal exactly what the Nazis were trying to hide at Treblinka. This documentary follows Caroline and her team as they work on the first comprehensive forensic investigation of the site.

THURSDAY

Legacy

BBC2, 9pm

For anyone too young to remember the 1970s, it wasn't just a time of flares, disco and Space Hoppers. In 1974, Britain was also in the middle of a Cold War, and contending with the three-day week, industrial strife and petrol rationing – and it's against this background that this thriller plays out. Charlie Cox heads the cast as Charles Thoroughgood, a trainee spy in MI6, who is under pressure to recruit his old university friend and Russian diplomat Viktor Koslov (Andrew Scott). However, it's not going to be as easy as going for a couple of drinks and reminiscing about the good old days. Viktor has his own agenda, as well as a bit of explosive inside information about the spy's family.

FRIDAY

Kangaroo Dundee

BBC2, 8.30pm

All eyes are focused Down Under at the moment thanks to the cricket and Celebrity shenanigans, but there's more to Aussie blokes than just the thwack of leather on willow, as this new documentary series proves. Following on from a two-parter shown earlier in the year as part of the Natural World strand, Kangaroo Dundee catches up with Chris 'Brolga' Barnes, the Outback hero who's been devoting his life to rescuing and raising orphaned kangaroos in Australia's Northern Territory. As the cameras start rolling again, Brolga has just taken in two new joeys by the name of Rex and Ruby, and is raising them using a pillowcase as a pouch.

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An Express & Star supplement

Express & Star

Puzzler

Brain Gym No.248

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

21	15	18	12	■	2	12	20	1	12	14	23	4
22	■	15	■	■	24	■	■	12	■	15	■	20
15	■	22 P	15 I	19	17	13	24	14	■	8	■	24
23	13	22	■	■	■	7	■	■	21	11	15	25
12	■	12	■	10	23	13	2	■	■	12	■	12
■	13	23	12	13	■	23	■	6	17	23	20	23
■	■	■	■	23	■	12	■	13	■	■	■	■
10	13	21	15	21	■	24	■	8	20	13	16	■
12	■	9	■	■	5	12	8	11	■	26	■	13
9	12	13	22	■	■	21	■	■	■	23	20	12
9	■	3	■	22	13	21	21	15	3	12	■	2
20	■	12	■	12	■	■	5	■	■	21	■	15
7	13	23	25	23	20	10	12	■	14	5	17	21

1	14
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10	23
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13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 P	2 X	3 D	4 L	5 H	6 F	7 O	8 A	9 M	10 T	11 B	12 V	13 C
14 Q	15 K	16 I	17 Y	18 Z	19 S	20 G	21 W	22 J	23 R	24 E	25 U	26 N

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

1		2		■	3	4		5		6		7
	■		■	8	■		■		■		■	
9							■	10				
	■		■		■		■		■		■	
11												■
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13		14				■	15					
	■		■		■	16	■		■	■	■	
■	17									18		
19	■		■		■		■		■		■	
20					■	21						
	■		■		■		■		■		■	
22								■	23			

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Poor Iris, to droop like this! (4)
3. In a convent it gives preferential treatment (8)
9. Saying in the page rim, perhaps (7)
10. The thank you letter one gets from Greece (5)
11. Suckers will always buy them! (6,6)
13. Slightly sensitive? (6)
15. I am unfortunately having to return the sausage (6)
17. Indicate the spot for a country meeting (5-2-5)
20. Verdi's energy (5)
21. Newspaper piece could make it clear (7)
22. They sit outside the courts to give their decisions (8)
23. Naturally, they lack refinement (4)

Down

1. Feel a bit upset by a trifling annoyance (8)
2. Defence of the absent (5)
4. Misers may become careless (6)
5. Bound to start a fight? (2,3,7)
6. You can't do a thing with it! (7)
7. Period from very early times (4)
8. Apparently they don't require a penny for their thoughts (4,8)
12. Upright but lacking energy (8)
14. An ideal description (7)
16. Faster form of attack (6)
18. Fall into part of the main current (5)
19. A much revered figure (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Pass (2,2)
3. Wasteful (8)
9. Send away (7)
10. Well up (5)
11. After death (12)
13. Make attractive (6)
15. Get away (6)
17. Despicable (12)
20. The sea (5)
21. Dryness (7)
22. More stable (8)
23. Remain (4)

Down

1. Good journey! (8)
2. Foundation (5)
4. Summary (6)
5. Essay (12)
6. Biggest ape (7)
7. Sediment (4)
8. Depressed (12)
12. Of late (8)
14. See (7)
16. Smear (6)
18. Wide bay (5)
19. Fling (4)

Sudoku

		8				2		
1			4		8		7	9
		6	2		5	3		
8		9				7		5
	1			5				
5		3			7	1		4
		1	3		2	8		
9			7		1			2
		2				4		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	6	3	4	8	1	5	2	9
2	1	4	9	3	5	6	8	7
8	5	9	7	6	2	3	1	4
6	2	5	3	4	7	8	9	1
1	9	7	8	5	6	2	4	3
4	3	8	2	1	9	7	6	5
5	4	2	6	9	3	1	7	8
3	8	6	1	7	4	9	5	2
9	7	1	5	2	8	4	3	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Literal; 7 Strum; 9 Style; 10 Turn off; 12 Switchboard; 14 Taking sides; 18 Respond; 19 Rifle; 21 Snore; 22 Sailing. Down: 1 Piety; 2 Yellow; 3 Tap; 4 Stingo; 5 Gunfire; 8 Fuchsia; 11 Staging; 13 Make one; 15 Impart; 16 Evilly; 17 Plant; 20 Pas. QUICK - Across: 6 Defence; 7 Bogus; 9 Tepid; 10 Nursery; 12 Reduce speed; 14 Papier-mache; 18 Asinine; 19 Still; 21 Azure; 22 Adverse. Down: 1 Lever; 2 Revise; 3 Act; 4 Gossip; 5 Quarrel; 8 Funeral; 11 Current; 13 Capsize; 15 Ignore; 16 Hatred; 17 Close; 20 Odd.

Good Night Ring

"Don't know how it works but it does, it's amazing"
Simon B

The Sound of Silence
This just might be what you are looking for
Available at Boots, your local pharmacy
Online at amazon.co.uk or www.goodnightsnoring.co.uk
This product has not been proven by a Clinical Trial

'If it wasn't for my foster parents, Alan and Sarah, I wouldn't be the football coach I am today.'

Foster or adopt with us and help a child achieve their goals.

We are particularly looking to recruit foster carers in the Wyre Forest area able to provide short breaks to support our full time foster carers.

Our open evening is Monday 16th December 2013
6.45pm to 9.pm at the service office

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star extra TRAVEL

Sri Lanka

Join this comprehensive tour and discover the delights of old Ceylon with its sacred caves, ancient temples and lost cities, ending with two days relaxing on one of Sri Lanka's idyllic tropical beaches. Travel on return scheduled flights from London Heathrow and stay in charming hand-picked three-star hotels, with daily breakfast and dinner included.

One of the first adventures on the itinerary is the famous Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage which boasts a herd of over 75 animals from matriarchs to calves and their daily bath in the river provides a stunning photo opportunity.

Some of the other included tours are to the 600 foot granite tower called Sigiriya, or the Lion Rock, known for its ancient murals of 'cloud maidens'; to Kandy, Sri Lanka's last Royal capital; to the amazing cave temples of Dambulla, a UN World Heritage site; and to a well-known tea estate and spice garden, staying at the four-star Grand Hotel, originally the summer home of one of the Governors of Ceylon.

For a different sort of experience, two nights are reserved at the Safari Hotel, which has a pool, bar and restaurant overlooking the Tiffa Lake. Just 45 minutes from the Yala National Park this is the base for an early morning start to the jeep safari in the hope of seeing leopard, elephants, saltwater crocodiles, wild boar, sloth bears, monitor lizards and a huge variety of birdlife. The three-star superior Palms Hotel in the beach resort of Beruwela is the final port of call, allowing for two days of rest and relaxation before the journey home.

Thirteen days
Various departure dates
£1,799*

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return flights
- Nine nights half-board accommodation
- Guided visits to Pinnawela elephant orphanage, Sigiriya Rock, Dambulla cave temples,
- Kandy city tour and Botanical Gardens
- Visit to a tea estate and spice garden
- Jeep safari in Yala National Park
- Galle city tour
- Services of a Riviera tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

* various according to departure date please go to website for the latest prices

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744 ATOL 3430)

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Express & Star Shop

Advertisement feature

Welcome to the Express & Star Christmas Shop

Whether you're almost prepared for Christmas, or if you tend to leave it all until the last minute as so many of us do, we're sure you'll find what you need at www.expressandstarshop.co.uk. Within the next four pages you will find a range of gifts for your loved ones, from the pretty to the practical and all with fantastic savings – there really is something for everyone! There's a variety of kitchen essentials which will make preparation of your festive feast a breeze, as well as making perfect presents for keen cooks. We've also included a selection of our bestselling homeware items – whether you have family or friends staying for Christmas or are just looking to spruce up your home, these are our top picks to keep you cosy and warm all winter long.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at Express & Star Shop!

SPODE CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

From £16.99 Save up to £28.50

Created in 1938, and now celebrating its 75th anniversary, the Spode Christmas Tree Collection is wonderfully iconic and loved the world over. With a beautiful hand painted Christmas tree design set on a cream background they will add the finishing touches to your festive celebrations. Choose from: a chip and dip serving platter, measures 32cm, a three-section server measures 38cm and the single-handled server, measures 27cm.

D7008 Chip and dip £28.50 RRP £57.00
D7009 Three part server £28.50 RRP £57.00
D7010 Single handed server £16 RRP £32

Spode

FROM £16.99 Save up to £28.50

JUST £79.99 SAVE £20

LOOK! NO PLUG

6FT CHRISTMAS TREE

Only £79.99 RRP £99.99 Save £20

Eliminate the annual challenge of untangling your Christmas tree lights with our beautifully realistic artificial tree. No plug and no trailing cables mean it can be positioned anywhere around your home! Four AA batteries (not included) will power the lights for up to 60 days.

D7150 Tree - coloured lights **D7151 Tree - white lights**

JUST £159.99 SAVE £40

zennox

4-IN-1 MIDI HIFI

Code D5619 Silver - D5618 Black £159.99 RRP £199.99

This modern hi-fi has a 20 station memory AM/FM radio, three changer CD player, three speed vinyl turntable and a CD player. A spare stylus (code GF666) is also available for £9.99.

FROM £49.99

Buy both for £104.98

AW

AMETHYST JEWELLERY

Code D6638 Necklace - £59.99 D6639 Earrings £49.99

This eye-catching jewellery is set in solid silver. The pendant is 19mm with 2 carats of amethyst and a diamond, the matching earrings contain 2.5 carats of amethyst with 2 diamonds.

STEAM MOP

Code D5474 £59.99
RRP £99.99 Save £40

Suitable for use on stone, linoleum, sealed hardwood floors and carpets, this powerful 1500W 9-in-1 device cleans them all safely and without the need for chemicals. Just fill the reservoir with tap water and switch on. Three spare pads (code D5475) are also available for £13.99.

easy steam

JUST £59.99 SAVE £40

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EXPRESSANDSTARSHOP.CO.UK

GIFTS *for him*

CHURCHILL SLIPPERS

£34.95 - Buy two for £60

These superb Churchill gentlemen's mules and slippers are hand crafted using the finest nappa leathers and finished to the highest standards.

The soft leather uppers provide comfort your feet will thank you for.

Choose from the Outdoor Mule with a rugged hardwearing sole and a fully padded insole, suitable for indoor and outdoor wear, the Albert with a soft leather lining or the Grecian with its wool lining.

Available in sizes: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14.

Outdoor Mule Black (BV119)

Outdoor Mule Brown (BV95)

Albert Black Leather lined (BV901)

Albert Brown Leather lined (BV902)

SLIMLINE HI-FI SYSTEM

JUST £129.99 SAVE £170

£129.99 RRP £299.99 Save £170

This contemporary, slimline music centre is superbly styled and boasts an amazing six functions to suit all your musical needs. There is a turntable for all of your 33s, 45s and 78s, an AM/FM radio with a fine-tuning dial and integral aerial for perfect reception and a front-loading CD player with bright, crystal-clear LCD display and backlit controls. There's even a handy cassette deck for you to enjoy your favourite tape recordings.

The integrated USB connection and PC software allows you to record and store your much-loved songs and albums to your PC so you can play them on your MP3 player. Also included is an aux-in function that allows you to play other devices through your music centre using the stereo speakers included. Available in black or cherry, the hi-fi measures 37 x 31 x 19cm and includes speakers measuring 23 x 15 x 13cm.

D6618 Hi-Fi System – Black
D6619 Hi-Fi System – Cherry
GF666 Spare Stylus £9.99

zennox

REMINGTON HYPERFLEX SHAVER

£59.99 RRP £129.99 Save £70

The latest in precision technology, this cordless Remington shaver is designed to give you a closer, smoother shave. Featuring Remington's revolutionary titanium coated blades, it uses HyperFlex technology flexible neck, active XL shaver head and twin track blades to follow the angles of your neck, chin and jaw line perfectly. This wet and dry shaver can also be used in the shower and there's even a pop up trimmer for precision detailing. Featuring a long lasting Lithium Ion battery, the shaver provides 60 minutes of usage on a full charge.

To clean, simply wash under a running tap.

Comes complete with travel pouch, charging stand, plus two year manufacturer's warranty.

Code D6706

JUST £59.99 SAVE £70

REMINGTON

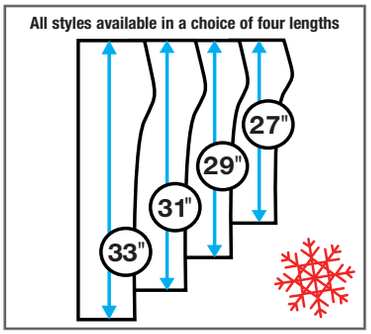
THERMAL LINED CHINOS

£29.99 - BUY ONE PAIR GET ANY OTHER PAIR FREE

With classic chino styling, two slant pockets, belt loops and two back button pockets these traditional favourites provide the perfect solution for the colder seasons. An additional hidden expanding waist offers an extra two inches of give, enabling you to move and stretch with ease.

All trousers are available in waist sizes: 32" 34" 36" 38" 40" 42" 44" 46" and 48". Leg sizes: 27", 29", 31", 33".

All styles available in a choice of four lengths



JUST £32.99 SAVE £2

SEIKO

CROSSWORD SOLVER

Code D6447 £32.99 RRP £34.99 Save £2

Word phrases and anagrams all become clear with this Seiko Oxford crossword solver. With a 250,000 word database from the Oxford Crossword Dictionary, you can find the answers you are looking for in seconds. It's packed full of features. Check a name, date or fact and search through its 256 general knowledge lists for the answer.

The 250,000 word spellchecker provides instant phonetic correction, plus there's 10 word games, a thesaurus with over 2.5 million synonym links, an abbreviation solver and an imperial metric converter featuring lengths, weights, temperature and liquid measures. If that's not enough, it's a calculator with memory and percent functionality. Presented in an attractive desktop case with large high contrast display, clear fonts, large buttons and auto power off. Batteries included.

DIABETIC SOCKS FOR MEN AND WOMEN

£19.99 - FOR FIVE PAIRS

Recommended for diabetes, arthritis, obesity or tired and swollen feet. Breathable and flexible, they will stay in place all day and have minimal seams for perfect comfort.

Made from: 66% cotton, 31% polyamide and 3% lycra elastomer.

Men's pack includes two pairs of black, two navy and one grey, to fit sizes 6-11.

Ladies pack includes two pairs of black, one navy, one blue and one beige, to fit sizes 3-8.

JUST £19.99

Better Health
For a better way of life

C128 Men's diabetic socks £19.99
C209 Ladies diabetic socks £19.99

ZENNOX 8-24X50 ZOOM BINOCULARS

From £29.99 SAVE £70

£29.99 RRP £99.99 Save £70

These amazing binoculars feature a zoom dial that allows you to zoom from 8x to up to 24x magnification at the touch of a button, giving a phenomenal 2400% magnification. What's more the huge 50mm objective lenses combined with top quality prism system provide crystal clear vision, every time – even in low light! Encased in a strong rubber armoured body and complete with protective lens covers. Using a tripod will enhance performance. Comes complete with carry case, lens cleaning cloth and neck strap. Dimensions (W) 19 x (H) 20 x (D) 8cm.

Code D5879

zennox

3.5" MINI LCD TV

Freeview

From £79.99 SAVE £20

zennox

£79.99 RRP £99.99 Save £20

Watch and record Freeview TV and have music and movies in the palm of your hand with this compact 3.5 inch digital TV and multimedia player. Load a micro SD card with your favourite programmes, movies or music and you have an instant portable cinema or MP3 player. Includes built-in radio and 0.8W speaker, holding stand for table viewing, volume control and headphone port. Measures just 11 x 7.5 x 1.5cm. 8GB SD card available separately for £14.99.

D5741 Mini TV £79.99 **D5738 SD Card £14.99**

GIFTS *for her*

LADIES COMFORT SHOES

£29.99 - BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

The brand new Pili Pala range of ladies shoes is a must-have for the autumn wardrobe. Modern and stylish, these ultra-lightweight shoes feature a flexible and padded sole for all day long comfort.

Available in six great designs; choose from a modern wedge, classic Mary Jane touch-fasten strap, ballet pump with bow detail, crocodile effect loafer, metallic buckle pumps and classic loafer.

Choose any two pairs in any style, size or colour for £29.99.

Upper: man-made. Insole: leather. Sole: man-made. Sizes: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

Pili Pala

HEATED FOOT MASSAGER

£24.99 RRP £39.99 Save £15

If you suffer with cold, tired and aching feet, this foot warmer will help by warming your feet and improving circulation. With a cosy micro fibre 'teddy' fleece lining, the handset allows you to choose between high and low heat settings. It also has a choice of high and low massage settings, allowing you to enjoy a gentle or invigorating massage. The massage and heat settings can be used together, or independently when required and the removable polyester lining is washable at 30 degrees. Mains powered.

Code D5194

HJ HALL LADIES' SOCKS

JUST
£24.99
Save over £22

£24.99 RRP £47.40 Save over £22

These calf length, loose top socks are manufactured without elastic by leading brand HJ Hall to ensure a comfortable wear and leave no unsightly marks on the skin or pinch calves or ankles. They will gently hold up without any discomfort or pain. Supplied in a pack of 12 assorted colours, they are made of 80% cotton and 20% nylon. Choose from two pack options: C215 contains 3 black, 3 navy, 2 damson, 2 oatmeal and 2 denim; C216 contains 3 black, 3 navy, 2 ecru, 2 denim and 2 raspberry. Ladies size 4-7.

COSY WINTER ONESIES

£19.99 RRP £39.99 Save £20

This seasons ultimate must have, our onesies are made from luxuriously soft fleece to keep you warm all winter long. Perfect for lazing around the house, the front zip design makes them easy to put on and so comfortable you'll not want to take them off! The perfect Christmas gift for yourself, or loved one they feature elasticated leg and sleeve cuffs and two front zip pockets for keeping essential items close to hand and easy to find. Fully machine washable, you can choose from striking pink and black stripe, pink multicolour polka dot or purple and white polka dot.

Made from 100% polyester and available in sizes 8/10, 12/14, 16/18, 20/22, 24/26.

JUST
£19.99
SAVE £20

Purple, white dot
D6831, size 8/10
D6846, size 12/14
D6847, size 16/18
D6848, size 20/22
D6849, size 24/26

Pink, black stripe
D6855, size 8/10
D6856, size 12/14
D6857, size 16/18
D6858, size 20/22
D6859, size 24/26

Pink, multi dots
D6850, size 8/10
D6851, size 12/14
D6852, size 16/18
D6853, size 20/22
D6854, size 24/26

JUST
£69.99
Save £60

BODYTECH EXERCISE BIKE

£69.99 RRP £129.99 Save £60

The BodyTech Exercise Bike is the perfect beginners exercise bike to help lose weight, burn calories and tone up. A built in computer monitor measures time, speed, distance and calories, so you can keep track of your progress. Developed from high quality, durable materials it is designed to allow for comfortable and reliable usage. Easy to follow instructions are included. This product comes with a one year guarantee.

Features include:
- Adjustable saddle height
- Adjustable resistance levels
- Foot pedals with straps
- Dimensions: H 110cm x L 82cm x W 51cm
- Computer monitors: time, speed, distance and calories used
- Maximum user weight: 100kg

Code D6703

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You can also place your order on your own notepaper.

If you are a MASTERCARD, VISA or MAESTRO cardholder, you can call our sales order hotline on 0871 911 7011* quoting offer code 35167 seven days a week.

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Web: www.expressandstarshop.co.uk

All orders are normally delivered by private courier service within 7 days. If you have not received your order within 21 days please notify us.

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_____Postcode_____

Email_____

Tel. (for queries only)_____

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Or please debit my card £_____ ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Maestro Issue No._____

My card number is:

Start date: ___/___ Expiry date: ___/___ Security Number: ___

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	£9.95
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Order by post **using the form above**

PREPARE *for guests*

DELUXE FOLDING GUEST BED

£129.99 RRP £179.99 Save £50

Convenient yet comfortable, this folding guest bed provides practical extra sleeping space for any visitors to your home. Easy to move and store, the sturdy frame, slatted base and the 4 inch deep mattress combine to ensure a great night's sleep for guests of all ages.

When your guests leave, you can simply fold the bed into an upright position and roll it away on its castors to store away neatly. Measuring 79cm (W) x 186cm (H) x 38cm (D) open and 73cm (W) x 106cm (H) x 30cm (D) closed it's the ideal addition to any home.

When not in use you can discreetly store your guest bed away using one of our great covers to protect your bed. Choose from a bespoke fabric cover that slips neatly over your bed, or one of our attractive wooden cupboards that allow your bed to blend seamlessly into the room as though it were a cabinet.

Available in light oak or mahogany, each cabinet measures: W92 x H114 x D37cm. and slides neatly away from the wall to allow access to the bed.

Description	Code	RRP	Price
Deluxe folding guest bed	D6680	£179.99	£129.99
Guest bed fabric cover	D6681	£9.99	£9.99
Cabinet - Light oak	D6733	£129.99	£99.99
Cabinet - Mahogany	D6734	£129.99	£99.99

OSCILLATING 1200W HALOGEN HEATERS

JUST £39.99 BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

£39.99 - BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

State-of-the-art halogen tubes are built into this beautifully composite moulded, 'cool-touch' casing mounted on a clever oscillating base to fill any room with warmth within minutes.

Running costs are from an amazing five pence an hour and the simple one-touch operating buttons provide three levels of heat (400W/800W/1200W).

Use it safely in most parts of the home thanks to the built-in overheat protection, grill security and anti-fall security features.

INSTANT ALL ROOM HEAT IN COMPLETE SAFETY

Product	Code	Price
Halogen heaters - white	D5735	£39.99
Halogen heaters - black	D5736	£39.99

ELECTRIC BLANKETS

From £24.99 Save £10

Fitting easily under your sheets these luxurious electric blankets heat up quickly, providing constant warmth across the mattress sleeping area. Keeping you lovely and warm on the coldest of nights, they feature three heat settings, a heat level indicator and removable power cords for hand washing. The blankets are made using high quality materials and are available in a choice of soft standard polyester lining or cosy fleece lining and come in three sizes; single, double and king.

The single blanket is heated by a 50W element and comes with a detachable controller, while the double and king sizes feature two 50W elements and two controllers, allowing you to always keep your half of the bed at the perfect temperature.

Standard	Code	RRP	Price	Fleece	Code	RRP	Price
Single	D6671	£34.99	£24.99	Single	D6674	£44.99	£34.99
Double	D6672	£44.99	£34.99	Double	D6675	£59.99	£49.99
King	D6673	£54.99	£44.99	King	D6676	£69.99	£59.99

HOTEL COLLECTION DUVETS

From £19.99 Save up to £40

Enjoy all the comfort and quality of a night in a five star hotel without leaving your home with these sumptuous Hotel Collection duvets. This deluxe bedding is non allergenic and its plush, super soft micro fibre casing and hollow fibre filling is wonderfully lightweight without compromising on comfort and warmth, making for a blissful night's sleep all year round.

Our duvets are long lasting and designed with stitched sections to retain their plumped shape and luxurious feel. Available in a choice of single, double, king or super king and offered in three levels of warmth; 10.5, 13.5 and 15 tog. A twin pack of cosy micro fibre pillows can be added to your order for £19.99. Machine washable.

Product	10.5 tog	RRP	Price	13.5 tog	RRP	Price	15 tog	RRP	Price
Single	D5752	£32.99	£19.99	D6094	£39.99	£21.99	D6098	£42.99	£24.99
Double	D5753	£42.99	£29.99	D6095	£49.99	£31.99	D6099	£54.99	£32.99
King	D5754	£54.99	£32.99	D6096	£64.99	£34.99	D6100	£69.99	£36.99
S/King	D5755	£64.99	£34.99	D6097	£74.99	£36.99	D6101	£79.99	£39.99
Pillow x 2	D5785	£29.99	£19.99						

DAYLIGHT LAMPS

From £49.99 Save up to £30

There's nothing better than natural sunlight to brighten up your home and your mood. Now thanks to our range of special daylight lamps, you can enjoy that same clean bright natural sunlight effect all year round. It's also great for hobbies such as needlework, model making and painting, helping to make colours more true to life and improving contrast.

Product	Code	RRP	Price
Daylight Table Lamp – Steel	D3943	£79.99	£49.99
Daylight Floor Lamp – Steel	D3944	£99.99	£69.99
Daylight Table Lamp – Brass	D5553	£79.99	£49.99
Daylight Floor Lamp – Brass	D5552	£99.99	£69.99
Spare Bulb	D3948	-	£4.99

LUXURY FEATHER MATTRESS TOPPER

From only £39.99 Save up to £40

Turn your existing mattress into a real feather bed – in an instant. This beautifully soft, 100% white duck feather mattress topper will add comfort to your existing mattress.

Wonderfully warm, it's absolute heaven to relax and sleep on. Its deep-filled 'high loft' pockets of top quality, white duck feather provide gentle, restful support and will keep you cosy through the chilliest of nights. Its 100% pure cotton cover is smooth and soft to the touch and the elastic retainer straps in each corner help to keep the topper firmly in place. To add more comfort, you can also purchase a matching feather pillow for just £9.99.

Product	Code	RRP	Price
3" Single topper	D2307	£59.99	£39.99
3" Double topper	D2308	£79.99	£59.99
3" King topper	D2309	£99.99	£69.99
3" S/king topper	D5956	£109.99	£79.99
Pillow	D2303	£12.99	£9.99

Product	Code	RRP	Price
5" Single topper	D6555	£79.99	£59.99
5" Double topper	D6556	£99.99	£79.99
5" King topper	D6557	£119.99	£89.99

PORTABLE DEHUMIDIFIER

From £39.99 Save up to £20

Simply place this compact 60W dehumidifier in any room affected by damp, plug in and let it do the rest. Once its 500ml capacity is reached it automatically shuts off. Just slide out the removable tank, pour away the water and replace. No mess, no fuss, no expensive refills. Mains powered. Measures 22 x 13 x 12cm. Also available is our new large capacity portable 75W dehumidifier, measuring just 34 x 22 x 17cm and boasts a 1.5 litre water tank.

D2676 60W Dehumidifier £39.99 RRP £49.99
D3812 75W Dehumidifier £49.99 RRP £69.99

Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Improved detached with garage priced £179,950

ON the popular Chawn Park development, this property in Thicknall Drive, Stourbridge is well presented and has been improved.

It is for sale through Taylors, priced at £179,950.

A three-bedroomed detached house with gas central heating and double glazing, it has an entrance hall, attractive sitting room, combined dining room and kitchen, three first floor bedrooms, a bathroom, block paved drive, detached garage and an enclosed rear garden.

For further information contact Taylors on 01384 592167 or visit www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

Traditional two-bed terrace located in the heart of town

THIS two-bedroomed terraced house in Attwood Street, Halesowen, lies in the heart of town, being convenient for many local amenities.

It is for sale through Dixons with offers in the region of £100,000 being invited.

The modern and stylish interior includes a lounge, kitchen, breakfast room with access to the rear, bathroom, two bedroms, a lobby and a rear garden.

For further information contact Dixons on 0121 468 0031 or go online and visit www.dixonsestateagents.co.uk

www.bakersproperty.co.uk

THE STRAITS

Tennyson Road
- Extended Semi
- Lounge
- Formal Dining Area
- Fitted Kitchen
- Adjacent Breakfast Area• Utility
- Ground Floor Granny Flat
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom• Garage• Gardens
- Hall

OFFERS BASED ON: £169,950

UPPER GORNAL

EVE LANE
- Semi-detached
- Hall • Lounge/diner
- Fitted kitchen
- Utility • Three bedrooms
- Bathroom • Garage
- Gas c/htg • Double glazed
- Open rear outlook
- Immaculate throughout
- Energy Rating D

OFFERS BASED ON £129,950

PENSNETT

TANSEY GREEN ROAD
- Semi detached
- Hall• Cloakroom
- Lounge• Fitted kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- En-suite to each
- Parking• Gas c/htg
- Double glazed

OFFERS BASED ON: £135,000

UPPER GORNAL

Eve Lane
- Semi detached
- Immaculate Thr`out
- Hall• Lounge
- Formal Dining Area
- Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms• Bathroom .
- Gas C/HTG • Parking
- Gardens

OFFERS BASED ON: £139,950

GORNAL

ACTON DRIVE
- Semi detached
- Porch • Lounge
- Dining area
- Fitted kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Garage • Gas c/htg
- Double glazed
- Energy Rating D

OFFERS BASED ON £149,950

GORNAL WOOD

EATON CRESCENT
- Semi detached • Porch
- Hall • Lounge
- Separate dining room
- Fitted kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Garage
- Gas C/HTG • Double glazed
- Gardens

OFFERS BASED ON £149,950

OAKHAM

OAKHAM ROAD
- Semi detached
- Luxury Accommodation
- Sizeable corner plot
- Hall• Lounge• Fitted kitchen
- Formal dining area
- Three bedrooms• Bathroom
- Garage• Gas c/htg• Double glazed
- Landscapeded gardens

OFFERS BASED ON: £215,000

GORNAL

KENNEDY CRESCENT
- Maisonette • Purpose built
- First floor
- Hall • Lounge
- Two bedrooms • Bathroom
- Fitted kitchen
- Rear garden
- Immaculate throughout
- Energy Rating E

OFFERS BASED ON £69,950

residential sales & lettings

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Cannock Chase Council

Cannock Chase
Landlord Forum

Wednesday 27th November 2013, 7pm Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock

If you are a landlord with property to rent in the Cannock Chase area, why not attend the next meeting of the Landlord Forum?

Guest Speakers for the evening are:

David Francis
PricewaterhouseCoopers - PwC
HMRC's approach to taxation in the private rented sector

Tom Cave Housing Solicitor
Staffordshire South West Citizens Advice Bureau
A guide for landlords on repossession & general good practice principles for managing rented accommodation

Phil Rowland Property Procurement Manager
Derventio Housing Trust (Housing Association)
3 year leasing opportunities for private landlords in the Cannock Chase area

For more information contact
Julie Cope/Dee Kalirai tel: 01543 462621
Housing Options Team, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock, Staffs WS11 1BG
www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk

Property

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Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Two-bed terrace on the outskirts of town centre

THIS is a well-presented and improved two-bedroom mid-terrace property, having two reception rooms, fitted kitchen and rear garden.

The house in Norman Street is located on the outskirts of Dudley town centre. Amenities can be found on Buffrey Road with transport links also available via the Buffrey Road and Dixons Green Road leading into Dudley town centre having a range of further amenities including shops, a market place and banks.

It is on the market for offers based on £85,000 with Your Move of Dudley. Call 01384 455000.

Semi in popular residential area

ON the market for £102,500, this property in Tenacre Lane, Gornal, is available through Swinscoes.

It is a beautifully presented three bedroom semi-detached property in a popular residential location. The well maintained accommodation comprises entrance hall, lounge, modern kitchen with integrated appliances and dining room on the ground floor.

There are also three bedrooms and a modern bathroom with separate shower cubicle on the first floor.

The property benefits from off road parking to the front and low maintenance garden to the rear with shed.

Viewing is highly recommended and the house comes with no upward chain.

Call Swinscoes on 01902 672274.

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93B STAFFORD ROAD, HUNTINGTON, CANNOCK

69 DARTMOUTH ROAD, CANNOCK

FORTHCOMING AUCTION

Thursday 5th December 2013

To be held at... Aston Villa Football Club from 11.00am

67 Lots to include:

Lot No.	Address	Tenure	Guide Price
1	138 COLLIS STREET, STOURBRIDGE, WEST MIDLANDS DY8 4EE	Freehold Vacant Residential	£26,000 - £29,000
2	23 ERNEST ROAD, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS DY2 7QJ	Freehold Vacant Residential	£65,000 - £69,000
3	17 GREENHILL ROAD, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM B21 8DX	Freehold Vacant Residential	£60,000 - £65,000
4	92B CLEMENTS ROAD, YARDLEY, BIRMINGHAM B25 8TT	Freehold Commercial Investment	£20,000 - £25,000
5	93 GALTON ROAD, SMETHWICK, WEST MIDLANDS B67 5JT	Freehold Vacant Residential	£110,000 - £120,000
6	125 GRESWOLD STREET, WEST BROMWICH, WEST MIDLANDS B71 1NS	Freehold Vacant Residential	£88,000 - £94,000
7	45 HALESOWEN ROAD, NETHERTON , DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS DY2 9QD	Freehold Vacant Residential	£110,000 - £120,000
3	17 GREENHILL ROAD, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM B21 8DX	Freehold Vacant Residential	£60,000 - £65,000
4	92B CLEMENTS ROAD, YARDLEY, BIRMINGHAM B25 8TT	Freehold Commercial Investment	£20,000 - £25,000
5	93 GALTON ROAD, SMETHWICK, WEST MIDLANDS B67 5JT	Freehold Vacant Residential	£110,000 - £120,000
6	125 GRESWOLD STREET, WEST BROMWICH, WEST MIDLANDS B71 1NS	Freehold Vacant Residential	£88,000 - £94,000
7	45 HALESOWEN ROAD, NETHERTON , DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS DY2 9QD	Freehold Vacant Residential	£110,000 - £120,000
8	115 PRIORY ROAD, HALL GREEN, BIRMINGHAM B28 0TG	Freehold Vacant Residential	£82,000 - £86,000
9	95 WALFORD ROAD, SPRINKHILL, BIRMINGHAM B11 1NP	Freehold Commercial Investment	£145,000 - £155,000
10	93B STAFFORD ROAD, HUNTINGTON, CANNOCK, STAFFORDSHIRE WS12 4NJ	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£15,000 - £20,000
11	LAND NORTH SIDE OF SPRINGVALE STREET, WILLENHALL, WEST MIDLANDS WV13 1EJ	Freehold Freehold Land	£45,000 - £55,000
12	5 DYOTT ROAD, MOSELEY, BIRMINGHAM, B13 9QZ	Freehold Vacant Residential	£335,000 - £365,000
13	15 JACOBY PLACE, PRIORY ROAD, EDGBASTON, BIRMINGHAM B5 7UN	Vacant Residential	£95,000 - £110,000
14	THE LEOPARD ,JERRYS LANE, BIRMINGHAM B23 5NX	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£170,000 - £190,000 + VAT
15	UNIT 3 WOODS LANE, BRIERLEY HILL, WEST MIDLANDS DY5 2QY	Freehold Commercial Investment	£95,000 - £105,000
16	116 FENTON STREET, BRIERLEY HILL, WEST MIDLANDS DY5 3HD	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£75,000 - £79,000
17	147- 149 CARE HILL, SMETHWICK, WEST MIDLANDS B66 4SH	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£350,000 - £375,000
18	SOHO TAVERN, 407 PARK ROAD, HOCKLEY, BIRMINGHAM B18 5SR	Freehold Commercial Investment	£80,000 - £95,000
19	92 SHIRLEY ROAD, ACOCKS GREEN, BIRMINGHAM B27 7NA	Freehold Vacant Residential	£140,000 - £150,000
20	48 CARNEGIE AVENUE, TIPTON, WEST MIDLANDS DY4 8SX	Leasehold Residential Investment	WE22,000 - £26,000
21	50 CARNEGIE AVENUE, TIPTON, WEST MIDLANDS DY4 8SX	Leasehold Residential Investment	£22,000 - £26,000
22	75 HOLYHEAD ROAD, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM B21 0LG	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£180,000 - £200,000
23	97 - 99 INWOOD ROAD, BIRMINGHAM B21 0SX	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£90,000 - £98,000
24	7 EDGOMBE ROAD, HALL GREEN, BIRMINGHAM B28 8AY	Freehold Residential Investment	£110,000 - £116,000
25	216 GLENDOWER ROAD, SMALL HEATH, BIRMINGHAM B10 0HY	Freehold Vacant Residential	£75,000 - £79,000
26	85 SOMERS ROAD, KERESLEY END, COVENTRY CV7 8LS	Freehold Vacant Residential	£45,000 - £50,000
27	1 BRINDLEY STREET, STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN, WORCESTERSHIRE DY13 8JA	Freehold Residential Investment	£180,000 - £200,000
28	69 DARTMOUTH ROAD, CANNOCK, STAFFORDSHIRE WS11 1HD	Freehold Vacant Residential	£85,000 - £95,000
29	LOCK UP GARAGES R/O 798-784 ALCESTER ROAD SOUTH, BIRMINGHAM, B14 5EZ	Freehold Garages	£25,000 - £29,000
30	3 BRINDLEY STREET, STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN, WORCESTERSHIRE DY13 8JA	Freehold Commercial Investment	£120,000 - £130,000
25	216 GLENDOWER ROAD, SMALL HEATH, BIRMINGHAM B10 0HY	Freehold Vacant Residential	£75,000 - £79,000
26	85 SOMERS ROAD, KERESLEY END, COVENTRY CV7 8LS	Freehold Vacant Residential	£45,000 - £50,000
27	1 BRINDLEY STREET, STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN, WORCESTERSHIRE DY13 8JA	Freehold Residential Investment	£180,000 - £200,000
28	69 DARTMOUTH ROAD, CANNOCK, STAFFORDSHIRE WS11 1HD	Freehold Vacant Residential	£85,000 - £95,000
29	LOCK UP GARAGES R/O 798-784 ALCESTER ROAD SOUTH, BIRMINGHAM, B14 5EZ	Freehold Garages	£25,000 - £29,000
30	3 BRINDLEY STREET, STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN, WORCESTERSHIRE DY13 8JA	Freehold Commercial Investment	£120,000 - £130,000
31	252 ABBEY STREET, DERBY DE22 3SW	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£75,000 - £200,000
32	102 MINSTER ROAD, STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN, WORCESTERSHIRE DY13 8AJ	Freehold Commercial Investment	£80,000 - £90,000
33	120-122 HIMLEY ROAD, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS DY1 2QQ	Freehold Vacant Residential	£165,000 - £185,000
34	THE KIMBRIDGE HOTEL, 11/13 COMMERCIAL ROAD, GLOUCESTER GL1 2DY	Freehold Commercial Investment	£375,000 - £400,000
35	15 GLENDOWER AVENUE, COVENTRY CV5 8BG	Freehold Vacant Residential	£82,000 - £88,000
36	26 AVENUE ROAD, ROWLEY REGIS, WEST MIDLANDS B65 0LR	Freehold Residential Investment	£98,000 - £104,000
37	LAND ADJ 75 FLORENCE ROAD WEST BROMWICH WEST MIDLANDS	Freehold Building Plot	£32,000 - £36,000
38	THE HOP POLE HOTEL, 9 MARKET SQUARE, BROMYARD, HEREFORDSHIRE HR7 4BP	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£220,000 - £250,000+VAT
39	131 LICHFIELD STREET, WALSALL WS1 1SY	Freehold Commercial Investment	£125,000 - £145,000
40	FORMERLY WILLENHALL LOCKS, STRINGES LANE, WILLENHALL, WEST MIDS WV13 1LF	Freehold Industrial	£140,000 - £160,000
41	FORMER WILLENHALL LOCKS HARDWARE, JOHN HARPER STREET, WILLENHALL WV13 1LF	Freehold Industrial	£179,000 - £199,000
42	18 LOCK UP GARAGES, COLINA CLOSE, COVENTRY CV3 3EG	Freehold Garages	£50,000 - £57,000
37	LAND ADJ 75 FLORENCE ROAD WEST BROMWICH WEST MIDLANDS	Freehold Building Plot	£32,000 - £36,000
38	THE HOP POLE HOTEL, 9 MARKET SQUARE, BROMYARD, HEREFORDSHIRE HR7 4BP	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£220,000 - £250,000+VAT
39	131 LICHFIELD STREET, WALSALL WS1 1SY	Freehold Commercial Investment	£125,000 - £145,000
40	FORMERLY WILLENHALL LOCKS, STRINGES LANE, WILLENHALL, WEST MIDS WV13 1LF	Freehold Industrial	£140,000 - £160,000
41	FORMER WILLENHALL LOCKS HARDWARE, JOHN HARPER STREET, WILLENHALL WV13 1LF	Freehold Industrial	£179,000 - £199,000
42	18 LOCK UP GARAGES, COLINA CLOSE, COVENTRY CV3 3EG	Freehold Garages	£50,000 - £57,000
43	4 x FGR TREASURE CLOSE, AMINGTON, TAMWORTH, STAFFORDSHIRE B77	Freehold Ground Rents	£10,000 - £13,000
44	4 x FGR TREASURE CLOSE, AMINGTON, TAMWORTH, STAFFORDSHIRE B77 3HS	Freehold Ground Rents	£10,000 - £13,000
45	5 x FGR TREASURE CLOSE, AMINGTON, TAMWORTH, STAFFS B77 3HS	Freehold Ground Rents	£13,000 - £16,000
46	4 x FGR TORC AVENUE, AMINGTON, TAMWORTH, STAFFORDSHIRE B77 3EP	Freehold Ground Rents	£10,000 - £13,000
47	4 x FGR TORC AVENUE, AMINGTON, TAMWORTH, STAFFORDSHIRE B77 3EP	Freehold Ground Rents	£11,000 - £14,000
48	4 x FGR TORC AVENUE, AMINGTON, TAMWORTH, STAFFS B77 3ER	Freehold Ground Rents	£10,000 - £12,000
49	FGR 10 BLACKMORE LANE, BROMSGROVE, WORCESTERSHIRE B60 1AB	Freehold Ground Rents	£2,000 - PLUS
50	FGR 327 ADAMS HILL, BARTLEY GREEN, BIRMINGHAM B32 3PB	Freehold Ground Rents	£2,000 - PLUS
51	FGR 329 ADAMS HILL, BARTLEY GREEN, BIRMINGHAM B32 3PB	Freehold Ground Rents	£2,000 - PLUS
52	28, 61 & 67 BRYN MORGRUG, ALLTWEN, PONTARDAWE, WEST GLAMORGAN SA8	Freehold Ground Rents	£7,000 - £9,000
53	75, 85 & 87 BRYN MORGRUG, ALLTWEN, PONTARDAWE, WEST GLAMORGAN SA8 3DG	Freehold Ground Rents	£7,000 - £9,000
54	12 & 14 BURNS CLOSE, CALDICOT, GWENT SA8	Freehold Ground Rents	£6,000 - £7,500
55	FGR 93A UNION ROAD, SHIRLEY, SOLIHULL, WEST MIDLANDS B90 3BZ	Freehold Ground Rents	£6,000 - £8,000
56	LAND ADJ TO 18 MOOR LANE, BIRMINGHAM B6 7AE	Freehold Development Land	£88,000 - £95,000
57	74 WILKERS HEATH ROAD, BIRMINGHAM B38 0AW	Leasehold Vacant Residential	£65,000 - £69,000
58	152 - 154 CARE HILL, SMETHWICK, WEST MIDLANDS B66 4PH	Freehold Commercial Investment	£170,000 - £180,000
59	120 THE GREEN, WEDNESBURY, WEST MIDLANDS WS10 8JP	Freehold Commercial Investment	£86,000 - £92,000
60	34 WAVERLEY ROAD, SMALL HEATH, BIRMINGHAM B10 0ER	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£100,000 - PLUS
61	DOCTORS SURGERY, VICARAGE ROAD, OLDBURY, WEST MIDLANDS B68 8HL	Leasehold Vacant Residential	£92,000 - £98,000
62	72 - 74 STAFFORD STREET, WALSALL WS2 8DR	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£90,000 - £100,000
63	18 ST. ELIZABETHS ROAD, FOLESHILL, COVENTRY CV6 5BY	Freehold Vacant Residential	£62,000 - £68,000
64	47 SEVERN ROAD, BLACKENHALL, WALSALL WS3 1NUR	Freehold Residential Investment	£55,000 - £59,000
65	40 ALKCOTE COTTAGES, ALVECOTE LANE, ALVECOTE, TAMWORTH B79 0DJ	Freehold Vacant Residential	£60,000 - £70,000
66	20 ARTHUR STREET, REDDITCH, WORCESTERSHIRE B98 8LD	Freehold Residential Investment	£110,000 - £118,000
67	121 DAISY FARM ROAD, BIRMINGHAM B14 4QL	Freehold Vacant Residential	£50,000 - plus

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23 ERNEST ROAD, DUDLEY

45 HALESOWEN ROAD, NETHERTON, DUDLEY

LAND NORTH SIDE OF SPRINGVALE STREET, WILLENHALL

FORMERLY WILLENHALL LOCKS, STRINGES LANE, WILLENHALL

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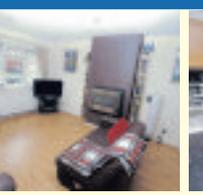
3 Bed — Baptist End Road, NETHERTON

This three bedroom semi-detached home is in need of some sympathetic modernisation would benefit from the rearrangement of some accommodation but nevertheless represents an excellent opportunity, currently comprising of; Entrance porch, lounge, kitchen, dining area, bathroom with separate w.c. and to the first floor there are three good sized bedrooms. Benefitting from having front and rear gardens and available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, early viewing is a must!

EPC:F

Netherton Office — Offers Over £75,000

2 Bed — Cecil Drive, TIVIDALE



We have for sale this immaculately presented two bedroom semi-detached home situated in this quiet residential location with good access to all local amenities. The property offers gas centrally heated and double glazed accommodation to comprise of; Entrance hallway, lounge, breakfast kitchen, two double bedrooms and a family bathroom. The property also benefits from ample off road parking, front and rear gardens. Viewing is highly recommended to appreciate this property!

EPC:C

Halesowen Office — Offers Around £105,000

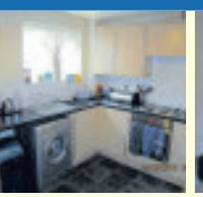
2 Bed — Bristnall Hall Road, OLDBURY

Offering an excellent opportunity to the first time purchaser, this well presented mid town house benefits from central heating, double glazing and allocated parking to both front and rear. Comprising; Entrance hall, downstairs w.c., lounge, kitchen, landing, two bedrooms, bathroom and rear garden and being conveniently situated close to most amenities and road networks, an early viewing is highly recommended to avoid disappointment!

EPC:B

Halesowen Office — £117,950

2 Bed — Summerton Road, TIVIDALE



One of a selection of two bedroom ground floor apartments on the 'Coppice Gate' development recently built by George Wimpey. With accommodation to comprise: Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, and a Bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing, storage heaters, and designated off road parking. The developemnt is situated close to Dudley Town centre and has good transport links in to Birmingham. A viewing is highly recommended for either first time buyers or buy to let investors - this apartment has been let for a number of years at £475 p.c.m.

EPC:B

Halesowen Office — Offers Invited £79,950

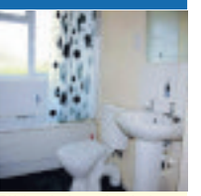
3 Bed — Highfield Crescent, ROWLEY REGIS

This well presented traditional semi-detached family home situated in this quiet cul-de-sac also benefits from having good access to the local road network and accommodation to comprise of; Entrance hallway, lounge, breakfast kitchen, downstairs w.c., to the first floor are three good sized bedrooms and a shower room. The property also benefits from being gas centrally heated and double glazed, has garage to the rear of the property and front and rear gardens. Viewing is recommended to fully appreciate this property.

EPC:E

Halesowen Office — Offers Around £129,950

3 Bed — Cradley Road, Netherton

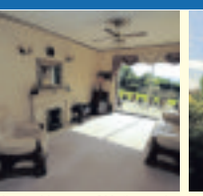


A superb and well presented, MODERN three bedroom detached property located in the heart of Netherton village within walking distance of local amenities and popular schools. Benefitting from spacious accommodation comprising of: entrance hall, DOWNSTAIRS W.C., dining room, beautiful fitted kitchen, lounge, EN-SUITE TO MASTER BEDROOM, rear garden, off road parking for two cars, gas central heating and double glazing. Viewing is a must to fully appreciate this family home! NO UPWARD CHAIN.

EPC:C

Netherton Office — Offers Around £149,950

3 Bed — Alpine Drive, NETHERTON



Situated in one of Netherton's most sought after locations, this three bedroom detached bungalow offers an excellent opportunity being pleasantly situated within this popular cul-de-sac having views over Netherton Reservoir. Benefitting from central heating, double glazing, garage and off road parking, the property is also available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, and we would therefore strongly recommend an early viewing in order to avoid missing out!

EPC:D

Netherton Office — Offers Around £224,950

2 Bed — Tansley Hill Avenue, DUDLEY

We are delighted to offer 'To let' this recently re-decorated and immaculately presented two bedroom semi detached home which is available immediately. Set in this highly convenient location with excellent access to all local amenities and the local road network. The property has good sized accommodation to comprise of Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Two good sized bedrooms and a modern bathroom to the first floor. The property also benefits from double glazing, gas central heating. Gated off road parking and a rear garden. No DSS, Pets Considered, No Smokers. An administration fee may be payable. Deposit £625.

EPC:E

Netherton Office — £500 pcm

3 Bed — Stanhope Street, NETHERTON

We are delighted to offer to rent this well presented good sized three bedroom detached home situated in this quiet backwater location and is available to let middle of December, just in time for Christmas! Accommodation comprises of Entrance Hallway, Two reception rooms, Kitchen, Three bedrooms and a bathroom. Also benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, rear garden and tandem garage. No DSS, No Smokers, Pets Considered, Children Allowed.
DEPOSIT: £810
ADMINISTRATION FEE PAYABLE- ASK FOR DETAILS

EPC:E

Netherton Office — £650 pcm

3 Bed — Vale Road, NETHERTON

This THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED property is available to let immediately, comprising; Lounge, dining room, first floor bathroom with separate W.C. The property benefits from having double glazing and central heating throughout along with and a good sized, well maintaned garden and off road parking to the front. An early viewing is recommended to avoid disappointment. DSS considered, pets considered. DEPOSIT: £650
ADMINISTRATION FEE PAYABLE- ASK FOR DETAILS

EPC:D

Netherton Office — £520 pcm

2 Bed — Mill Road, CRADLEY HEATH

Well presented two bedroomed semi-detached property in convenient location close to most amenities. Benefitting from two reception rooms, gas fired central heating, double glazing and garden to rear, an early viewing is essential to appreciate. DSS Considered | Pets considered | No Smokers. Available middle of September.
DEPOSIT: £600
ADMINISTRATION FEE PAYABLE- ASK DETAILS

EPC:C

Netherton Office — £450 pcm

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A first Floor modern apartment with open plan lounge and kitchen area, two bedrooms, bathroom, allocated parking and communal garden areas.

£80,000

TIPTON
Thetford Close

NEW INSTRUCTION

Located on the poplar "Foxyards Estate" this well presented semi detached house has hallway, lounge, breakfast kitchen, conservatory, downstairs bathroom, driveway and gardens to the front and rear. Viewing is highly recommended

£99,950 o/o

TIPTON
Brindlefields Way

NEW INSTRUCTION

A two bedroom mid terraced house with hallway, lounge, kitchen, upstairs bathroom, gardens to the front and rear and allocated parking.

£89,950

NETHERTON
Withymoor Road

A three bedroom semi detached house with hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, downstairs wc, upstairs bathroom, driveway, garage and gardens to the front and rear

£114,950

TIVIDALE
Oakthorpe Gardens

NEW PRICE

A modern, first floor maisonette in a cul-de-sac location. Good transport links to Dudley, Birmingham and Wolverhampton. Having fitted kitchen with appliances, two good sized bedrooms,house bathroom/WC with shower over bath. Allocated parking.

£59,950

LOWER GORNAL
Holloway Street

An impressive family home, this FOUR BEDROOM house enjoys all the space available. A quality kitchen with karndean flooring and dining/family areas opens out onto the rear garden, as does the bay fronted sitting room. Downstairs also features a utility room and WC. Three double bedrooms, including master bedroom with en suite shower room and beautiful fitted mirrored wardrobes, a single bedroom and a family bathroom with separate shower are located upstairs. The rear garden has a paved area and access to the garage and a gate leading to

£249,950

TIVIDALE
Wakeman Drive

A very well presented four bedroom detached house with hallway, lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, utility room, downstairs wc, master bedroom with en-suite shower room, family bathroom, driveway, garage and garden to the rear

£207,950

TIPTON
Spring Meadow

A five bedroom link detached house with hallway, large lounge with dining area, conservatory, downstairs wc, fitted kitchen, ensuite to master bedroom, garden to the rear, parking to the side and garage.

£169,995

DUDLEY
Buffery Road

A beautifully presented and particularly spacious three bedroom detached property briefly comprising of lounge, dining area, modern fitted kitchen, family bathroom, delightful rear garden, garage and ample off road parking. Viewing is highly recommended!

£169,950

TIVIDALE
Hoylake Drive

Located in this highly desirable location this three bedroom detached house briefly comprises of lounge, dining area, fitted kitchen, gardens to the front and rear, driveway and garage.

£159,950

DUDLEY
Scotts Green Close

A recently modernised three bedroom detached house with hallway, lounge, dining room, utility, downstairs wc, upstairs bathroom, gardens to the front and rear, driveway and garage

£149,950 o/o

TIPTON
Evans Close

A much improved and extended semi detached house with hallway, lounge with dining area, a converted garage which could be used as a dining room / play room, extended kitchen, side verandah, upstairs bathroom, two double bedrooms, a low maintenance garden to the rear and a double driveway to the front. Viewing is highly recommended.

£124,950

COSELEY
Ivyhouse Lane

A deceptively spacious traditional two bedroom "butt" style detached house with many original features. The house briefly comprises of hallway, lounge, dining room, larger than average kitchen, sun room, downstairs wc, large bathroom, driveway and an extensive garden to the rear

£120,000

BRIERLEY HILL
Golden Cross Way

A well presented two bedroom terraced property. Briefly comprising lounge, modern fitted kitchen/ breakfast room, white bathroom suite, rear garden and two allocated parking spaces.

£114,950

TIVIDALE
Pine Road

A well presented two bedroom semi detached property briefly comprising of lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, sun room, bathroom, rear garden,off road parking. Viewing is highly recommended to appreciate the size of this property

£114,950

TIVIDALE
Elm Terrace

A two bedroom semi detached house which is immaculate throughout and briefly comprises of hallway, lounge, dining kitchen, upstairs shower room, driveway and a good sized garden to the rear

£110,000 o/o

DUDLEY
St Catherines Close

A three bedroom semi detached house located in this poplar area with accommodation briefly comprising of hallway, lounge, kitchen with dining area, upstairs bathroom, good sized garden to the rear, driveway to the front.

o/o £110,000

DUDLEY
Russells Hall Road

A beautifully presented and deceptively spacious two semi detached property briefly comprising of lounge, kitchen, dining area, lean to, upstairs family bathroom, two double bedrooms, rear garden with a brick built work shop, off road parking to the front of the property.

£105,000

HALESOWEN
Netherend Lane

This is an immaculate one bedroom first floor apartment which briefly comprises of hallway, lounge, dining kitchen, double bedroom, refitted bathroom, communal gardens and a separate garage. Viewing is highly recommended.

£59,950

DUDLEY
Linwood Road

A three bedroom mid terraced house with lounge, breakfast kitchen, family bathroom, laundry room, garden to the rear and driveway to the front

£89,950

DUDLEY
Cromwell Drive

A recently improved three bedroom semi detached house briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining room, modern fitted kitchen, upstairs white bathroom suite, three good size bedrooms, rear garden and off road parking. No upward chain!

£114,950

DUDLEY
Brooke Street

NEW PRICE

A ground floor flat, newly decorated having one bedroom, one reception room, newly fitted kitchen, bathroom/WC, central heating and double glazing. Unfurnished, no DSS

£300PCM + Fee's

DUDLEY
Moncrieffe Close

NEW INSTRUCTION

A one bedroom 3rd floor studio flat. Lounge/ bedroom area with plenty of storage. Brand new bathroom with shower. Brand new kitchen with built in appliances. Allocated parking & secure intercom. Available now.

£345 PCM + Fee's

DUDLEY
Bean Road

NEW PRICE

A ground floor, one bed flat with double glazing and electric panel heaters. Having a lounge, bedroom, fitted kitchen with appliances, shower/WC. Part furnished, available now for long term.

£350 PCM + Fee's

DUDLEY
Hall Street

TO LET

A brand new one bed apartment. Open plan fitted kitchen/ dining/living area, double bedroom, separate shower/WC room. Off road parking, water bills included freesat TV , laundry facility. Off road parking. No DSS, no pets.

£350 + fees

DUDLEY
Grove Street

NEW PRICE

A one bedroom top floor apartment with double glazing. Modern fitted kitchen, lounge, double bedroom. Bathroom and w/c with shower. Unfurnished, available now.

£375 PCM + Fee's

DUDLEY
Abberley Street

TO LET

A 2nd floor 1 bed apartment near central dudley, having double glazing and central heating, with a modern fitted kitchen. Unfurnished, DSS considered with a guarantor. Available now.

£375 PCM + Fee's

TIVIDALE
Alexandra Way

NEW INSTRUCTION

One bedroom ground floor flat. Has open plan lounge & kitchen. Kitchen includes cooker & fridge. Bathroom with electric shower . Double glazing. Unfurnished. Dss considered with guarantor. No pets

£380 PCM + Fee's

DUDLEY
Norman Street

TO LET

A mid terraced two bed house, having two reception rooms, fitted kitchen and bathroom on lower ground floor, two double bedrooms on first floor. Garden to rear. Unfurnished. FIRST TWO MONTHS RENT FREE

£400 PCM + Fee's

DUDLEY
Edward Street

TO LET

A mid terraced, two bed house having a lounge, dining room and house bathroom/ WC on the ground floor, modern fitted kitchen on the lower ground floor - small garden to the rear. Unfurnished, DSS considered with guarantor.

£430 PCM + Fee's

DUDLEY
Kennedy Crescent

TO LET

A well presented two bedroom ground floor maisonette with hallway, lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms and a garden to the rear. Available now to view. Dss considered with guarantor. NO PETS.

£455 PCM + Fee's

Tipton
Ferguson Drive

NEW PRICE

A modern, two bed apartment with double glazing and electric storage heating, open plan living with fitted kitchen and dining area, lounge area, two good sized bedrooms and a house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Intercom for secure access, allocated parking, very close to local train station with good access to Birmingham, Dudley and Wolverhampton. Unfurnished, available for viewing. No Dss. No pets

£495 + Fees

DUDLEY
Pages Croft

TO LET

A modern two bedroom first floor apartment on popular Priory Park development. Having lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances, two bedrooms, bathroom. Double glazing, allocated parking. Available to view now. No DSS

£535 PCM + Fee's

DUDLEY
Temple Way

NEW INSTRUCTION

A three bed end terraced house with double glazing and central heating, lounge and fitted kitchen. Three bedrooms and a house bathroom/WC upstairs. Off road parking. Unfurnished and available for long term.

£550 PCM + Fee's

Tipton
Madin Road

TO LET

A three bedroom semi detached house briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, upstairs bathroom, two double bedrooms and a further single, front and rear garden and a garage with driveway. No DSS or pets.

£575 PCM + fees

LOWER GORNAL
Grafton Gardens

TO LET

A pleasant three bed mid-terraced house with a good sized lounge and fitted kitchen. Single garage to the front with off road parking for two cars, and a private garden with patio area to the rear. Unfurnished, available now.

£595 PCM + Fee's

OLDBURY
Ascot Close

TO LET

A 3 bed semi-detached house with off road parking. Through lounge, new fitted kitchen/diner, house bathroom with shower over the bath. Furnished or unfurnished. Available for long term.

£525 PCM + Fee's

BRIERLEY HILL
Church Street

NEW INSTRUCTION

A large semi detached family home with lounge, dining room, modern fitted kitchen, utility, conservatory, downstairs wc, three bedrooms and driveway to the front. Available December 2013.

£675 PCM + Fee's

Dudley
The Broadway

NEW INSTRUCTION

A splendid three bed detached house. Having double glazing, central heating, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen with utility room off, downstairs WC/shower room. Upstairs has three good sized bedrooms, master with fitted wardrobes. House bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Unfurnished, no DSS. Available to view now.

£725 PCM + Fee's

K.Stuart Swash

PROPERTY AUCTION 3rd DECEMBER 2013

49 LICHFIELD ROAD, WEDNESFIELD

Well located Shop Unit and Living Accommodation. Main Shop, Staff Room, W.C.
Self-contained First Floor Three Bed Flat, Spacious recently fitted Kitchen and Bathroom, Balcony, Garage. EPC: Shop E, Flat G

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 22nd & 23rd NOVEMBER @ 9.30 a.m

Guide: £118,000 / £123,000

ADDERLEY LODGE, 220 PENN ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

An impressive double fronted detached Victorian Residence offering spacious
Accommodation, fine Hall, W.C., Three Reception, large Kitchen, Utility, Pantry
Sun Lounge, Cellar, Four Bedrooms, Two Bath/ Shower, Double Garage, large Work Shop, lovely grounds. EPC: TBA

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 22nd & 23rd NOVEMBER @ 11.30 a.m. PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO VEHICULAR ACCESS AT THE TIME OF VIEWING – PARK IN COALWAY AVENUE / COALWAY ROAD

Guide: £290,000 / £ 310,000

3 BEECHWOOD DRIVE, WIGHTWICK

Cul-de-sac position within prime residential location - a well proportioned Bungalow – would now benefit from upgrade – Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Study, Utility facility off, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, generous Loft space, Garage, lovely Rear Garden. EPC: TBA

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 22nd & 23rd NOVEMBER @ 12.30 p.m.

Guide: £175,000 / £185,000

THE OLD POST OFFICE, 6 THE SQUARE, IRONBRIDGE

An impressive three-storey building with outlook to the world renowned Iron Bridge. Post Office Shop area, Cellar, Lounge, Dining Room, large Kitchen, Utility Four large Bedrooms and Bathroom. Self contained unit offering Sitting Room, Kitchen, Shower Room, Patio Garden. EPC: TBA

VIEWING: FRIDAY, MONDAY & TUESDAY, 22nd, 25th & 26th NOVEMBER @ 9.45 a.m.

Guide: £230,000 / £240,000

180 WOLVERHAMPTON STREET, BILSTON

Large spacious Victorian End Terrace, corner position, immaculately presented.
Hall, Two Reception, Sun Lounge, newly fitted luxury Kitchen and Bathroom
Two Double Bedrooms, Shower Room, spacious Loft area, large rear Garden. EPC: E

VIEWING:FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 22nd & 23rd NOVEMBER @ 9.45 a.m.

Guide: £80,000 / £95,000

6 WHARF STREET, HORSELEY FIELDS, WOLVERHAMPTON

A large Semi, Foregarden, off-road Parking, Large Hall, W.C., Lounge, big Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas C.H. EPC: TBA

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 22nd & 23rd NOVEMBER @ 10.45 a.m.

Guide: £78,000 / £83,000

11 PEAR TREE LANE, WEDNESFIELD

Conveniently located and accessible to shops and schools – a Detached House offering Porch, Hall, Through Lounge / Diner, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage, 70ft. Rear Garden. EPC: TBA

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY,22nd & 23rd NOVEMBER @ 11.45 a.m.

Guide: £110,000 / £115,000

44 GROSVENOR STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON

A partially improved Semi, Three smart Bedrooms, excellent Loft space, New Bathroom and Kitchen, Lounge and extended Dining Room, Garage, Store, Rear Garden. EPC: TBA

VIEWING: FRIDAY 22nd NOVEMBER @ 11.45 a.m. & SATURDAY 23rd NOVEMBER @ 1.30 p.m.

Guide: £54,000 / £59,000

298 NEWHAMPTON ROAD WEST, WOLVERHAMPTON

Large Victorian House with big rooms. Hall, Two Reception, large Kitchen, Rear Hall, Shower Room, Three Bedrooms & Box Room, spacious Bathroom. Gated vehicular access and off-road Parking, generous grounds. Space to develop (STPP). EPC: TBA

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 22nd & 23rd NOVEMBER @ 10.30 a.m.

Guide: £125,000 / £130,000

14 CLAYTON CLOSE, BLAKENHALL, WOLVERHAMPTON

Convenient cul-de-sac location, UPVC & CH., Foregarden
Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility area, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, long Rear Garden. EPC: TBA

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 22nd & 23rd NOVEMBER @ 12.45 p.m.

Guide: £64,000 / £69,000

25 MILFORD ROAD, BLAKENHALL, WOLVERHAMPTON

Investment – Currently producing £5,400 p.a.x.Large Semi in good location, Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Laundry, Three Bedrooms, white Bathroom, long Garden. EPC: F

VIEWING: THURSDAY 21st & THURSDAY 28th NOVEMBER @ 2.00 p.m.

Guide: £74,000 / £79,000

1 BROWN STREET, BLAKENHALL, WOLVERHAMPTON

Investment currently producing £7,020 pax
Well situated End Terraced, Two Reception, Kitchen, large Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, long garden. EPC: TBA

VIEWING: FRIDAY 22nd NOVEMBER @ 12.30 p .m. & SATURDAY 23rd NOVEMBER @ 2.15 p.m.

Guide: £75,000 / £80,000

FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION (subject to Conditions and prior sale)

On TUESDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2013 @ 6.30 p.m. At the Ramada Park Hall Hotel, Park Drive, Goldthorn Park, Wolverhampton, WV4 5AJ

VIEWING OF ALL LOTS AT OWN RISK

Please Note: Viewings are at times specified so, if you should arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the viewing schedule. Please Register for Catalogue

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BRIERLEY HILL	84-86 High Street	01384 265265
STOURBRIDGE	85 High Street	01384 395555

6 LOCAL OFFICES WORKING HARDER FOR BUYERS & SELLERS

SEDGLEY — Royston Way

NEW

A distinctive, particularly SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached bungalow imaginatively designed to take full advantage of individual secluded plot circa 2004. Tremendously improved & presented in exemplary order throughout, the elegant accommodation includes imposing reception hall, breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units & many integrated appliances, utility room, 22ft living/dining room, principal bedroom with fitted units & bathroom en suite, further double bedroom & a separate shower/cloakroom. Extensive landscaped gardens, ample parking & planning consent (now lapsed) for construction of double garage. EPC Rating: T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £239,950

WALL HEATH — Corrin Grove

NEW

Enjoying this exclusive cul de sac setting, just off Dudley Road and well placed for local shops / schools, this EXTENDED AND BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED, MODERN, LINK-DETACHED FAMILY HOME affords ATTRACTIVELY APPOINTED accommodation, enhanced by a DELIGHTFUL CONSERVATORY EXTENSION and comprising: reception hall, ground floor W.C., attractive lounge, LARGE CONSERVATORY, enlarged & beautifully refitted dining kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, refitted classic white bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. With BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY, GARAGE with utility / shower room and an attractive low maintenance rear garden. EPC Rating: D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£204,950

LOWER GORNAL

NEW

Straits Road

This modern style, uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated detached family home would now ideally benefit from certain cosmetic modernisation/improvement yet offers excellent potential & is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. The surprisingly spacious property comprises entrance porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, utility, CONSERVATORY, guest w.c., three good bedrooms, bathroom, larger than average garage, driveway & gardens to three sides. EPC Rating T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £179,950

WORDSLEY — Hollyhurst Drive

NEW

Constructed by respected David Payne Homes, this BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED, MODERN, THREE-STOREY, FOUR BEDROOM TOWNHOUSE enjoys a delightful cul-de-sac position, offering INCREDIBLY SPACIOUS and VERY VERSATILE accommodation which is 'READY TO MOVE INTO' and comprising: Entrance Hall, Reception Hall, ground floor WC, spacious full width Lounge, separate formal Dining Room, attractively appointed Kitchen with built-in appliances, first floor WC, FOUR GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS (Master with EN-SUITE SHOWER ROOM) and attractive House Bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. Pleasantly set back beyond lawns and established trees, enjoying a southerly facing, patio/lawned rear garden and GARAGE plus PARKING to the rear. EPC Rating: C. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£182,500

WOLVERHAMPTON

NEW

Camberley Crescent, Ettingshall Park

An impressive, conscientiously maintained, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached enviably situated abutting onto 'The Beacon' with good distant views from the front. Enhanced accommodation includes entrance vestibule, reception hall, store, lounge with bay, dining room, upgraded kitchen. Three bedrooms (third bedroom enlarged into eaves), recently reappointed bathroom with stylish white suite, garage, expertly tended/secluded rear garden. EPC Rating: T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £164,950

PENSNETT

NEW

Corbyns Close

Representing a rare opportunity to acquire a property in a quiet Cul-de-Sac, this Double Glazed (vast majority of units), Gas Centrally Heated, THREE BEDROOM DETACHED family home is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, and is well worthy of internal inspection. The property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, Re-Fitted Bathroom with white suite. Garage, Driveway and a lengthy Rear Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£164,950

PENSNETT

NEW

Corbyns Hall Road

This traditional style, bay fronted, gas centrally heated Detached family home is situated in an established residential location, and whilst requiring selective modernisation / improvement, retains excellent potential. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Large Garage and Workshop to Rear and ample Parking. AVAILABLE WITH NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating F. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£149,995

LOWER GORNAL

NEW

Acton Drive

A superb, tremendously well presented, and particularly stylish, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed ENLARGED semi detached in short/quiet cul-de-sac convenient for the village, and all amenities. Accommodation includes; entrance vestibule, reception hall, refitted kitchen with a fine range of units & various integrated appliances, enlarged living/dining room (with double French doors out to the garden). Three bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with a white suite. Lengthy drive, car port, garage, garden. EPC Rating T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £149,950

WORDSLEY

NEW

Sandringham Road

Forming part of the very popular and sought after Ashwood Park development, this MODERN SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME requires updating but offers EXCELLENT POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVEMENT to the WELL PLANNED and WELL MAINTAINED accommodation, including TWO SEPARATE RECEPTION ROOMS and comprising: Reception Hall, spacious full width Lounge, separate formal Dining Room, fitted Kitchen, THREE FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, refitted Shower Room; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. Set back beyond the beautifully maintained fore garden, DRIVEWAY with side approach to the GARAGE and enjoying a TWO-TIER LOW MAINTENANCE REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating: E. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£142,950

UPPER GORNAL

NEW

Harvest Close

An exceptional, ENLARGED, comprehensively modernised & upgraded, Freehold, gas centrally & uPVC double glazed semi detached presented in exemplary order throughout. Tremendous accommodation includes; lounge, refitted/enlarged dining room with a fine range of units, various integrated appliances & double doors through to a transverse uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, Inner "office", Two double bedrooms, reappointed/retlied bathroom with white suite. Secure garage with automated folding doors. Block paved foregarden, "low maintenance" rear garden with various fruit trees. EPC Rating T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £134,950

KINGSWINFORD

NEW

Greenfields Road

Enjoying an ATTRACTIVE OPEN REAR ASPECT, backing onto established trees/greenery to the rear, this VERY DECEPTIVE, ATTRACTIVELY IMPROVED, MID TERRACED FAMILY HOME is well placed close to the centre of Kingswinford and offers INCREDIBLY SPACIOUS and GENEROUSLY PROPORTIONED accommodation which is ATTRACTIVELY APPOINTED throughout and comprising: Reception Hall, very spacious full depth Lounge with ample dining space, attractively refitted Breakfast Kitchen with built-in appliances, THREE SUPERB SIZED BEDROOMS, refitted classic white Bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. Set back beyond the DRIVEWAY to the fore and enjoying a good sized patio/lawned rear garden. EPC Rating: D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£124,950

BRIERLEY HILL

NEW

Morris Court

This beautifully presented, uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, TWO BEDROOM SECOND FLOOR FLAT is well worthy of internal inspection, and may particularly appeal to FIRST TIME BUYERS. Accommodation briefly comprises: Secure communal Entrance / Stairs, Private Hall, Spacious Lounge, Kitchen with a fine range of units, TWO GOOD BEDROOMS, Bathroom with white suite, communal grounds and allocated PARKING to rear. 50% SHARED OWNERSHIP. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

Shared Ownership £50,000

PENSNETT — Bromley

NEW

AN ATTRACTIVELY PRESENTED TERRACED HOUSE forming part of an established location and offering WELL PROPORTIONED accommodation which is 'READY TO MOVE INTO' and comprising: entrance hall, attractive lounge, spacious fitted dining kitchen, TWO GOOD BEDROOMS, classic white bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. Set back beyond the DRIVEWAY to the fore and enjoying a level, low maintenance patio / lawned rear garden. EPC Rating: TBA. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£99,950 - No Upward Chain

GOSPEL END VILLAGE, SEDGLEY — Penn Road

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY! A distinctive, spacious ,primarily uPVC double glazed & gas radiator centrally heated detached residence constructed to highly individual specification in late 1960's with magnificent garden extending to APPROXIMATLEY 1/2 ACRE & offering tremendous potential. Accommodation includes entrance vestibule, reception hall, cloakroom, 27'8" lounge/dining room, 16'1" breakfast kitchen, 18'7" garden room. Three double bedrooms (one with shower room en suite), LARGE UNFINISHED LOFT CONVERSION (28'7" by probable 12'1" depth - 3 skylights), double garage, block paved parking/foregarden &, potentially, a magnificent garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £345,000

KINGSWINFORD

Melbourne Close

Commanding an elevated position within this highly sought after address and occupying an excellent sized plot, this SUBSTANTIALLY EXTENDED, MODERN DETACHED FAMILY HOME now offers a SUPERB FOUR BEDROOM LAYOUT, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: reception hall, spacious lounge, separate formal dining room, fitted kitchen, FOUR GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS, bathroom and separate shower room. Set back beyond a LARGE DRIVEWAY with approach to the GARAGE, together with attractive front / side gardens with lawns / shrubs and enjoying a GOOD SIZED & ATTRACTIVELY LAID OUT PRIVATE REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£194,950

BEARWOOD 129 Poplar Road 0121 434 4345
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6 LOCAL OFFICES WORKING HARDER FOR BUYERS & SELLERS

KINGSWINFORD

Greystoke Drive

£15,000 REDUCTION

A SUBSTANTIAL AND DISTINCTIVE DETACHED "DAVID PAYNE" FAMILY HOME which enjoys a superb "cul-de-sac" setting upon the fringe of "Mayfields" offering EXPENSIVELY IMPROVED and IMMACULATELY PRESENTED accommodation which comprises: canopy porch, reception hall with re-fitted guests cloakroom/w.c. off, fantastic large lounge with walk in bay, separate formal dining room, CONSERVATORY EXTENSION, refitted kitchen, utility room, FOUR VERY GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS, master with refitted en-suite shower room, refitted bathroom, GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. The property is further enhanced by the DRIVEWAY, 39'+ GARAGE and a beautifully landscaped low maintenance rear garden which has a secluded rear aspect backing onto trees. EPC Rating D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£284,950

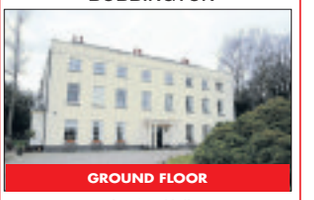
DUDLEY

Northgate Close,

A COMPARATIVELY SPACIOUS, particularly stylish, FOUR BEDROOM, uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated intermediate townhouse at head of short cul de sac constructed by David Wilson Homes circa 2005 & covered by balance of NHBC guarantee. Personal inspection vital to appreciate quality/flexibility of the accommodation. To the ground, 16'5" reception hall, fitted cloakroom, store, fourth bedroom & a utility room. To the first floor, L-shape lounge/dining room & a 'hub of the house' breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units & various integrated appliances. To the second floor, three generous bedrooms (principal bedroom with shower room en suite) & house bathroom with white suite, GARAGE, garden with patio and distant views. EPC Rating:C.. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £157,000

BOBBINGTON



GROUND FLOOR

Leaton Hall

Enjoying a delightful rural setting, surrounded by beautiful open countryside upon the outskirts of Bobbington Village, this BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED GROUND FLOOR LUXURY APARTMENT forms part of this substantial and imposing converted Grade II listed Hall, including a communal gym and billiards room, the accommodation comprising: Large Hall, large Lounge with Dining Area, attractively fitted Kitchen with integrated appliances, TWO EXCELLENT SIZED BEDROOMS (master with luxury en-suite shower room), beautifully appointed Bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and DOUBLE GLAZING. Additionally there is ALLOCATED CAR PARKING SPACES and BEAUTIFULLY MAINTAINED GARDENS/GROUNDS including a delightful lake. EPC Rating D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£149,950

KINGSWINFORD

Monteagle Drive

Gently elevated within this very popular address upon prestigious 'Charterfields', this ATTRACTIVELY PRESENTED MODERN SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME offers SPACIOUS and WELL PLANNED accommodation, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: reception hall, full depth lounge through to dining area, fitted kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS and refitted bathroom. With lawned foregarden, DRIVEWAY with approach to GARAGE and to the rear enjoying an ATTRACTIVE SECLUDED GARDEN. EPC Rating D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£145,950

DUDLEY

Dibdale Street

A quite exceptional, freehold, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) & uPVC double glazed semi detached bungalow that has been comprehensively renovated by present vendors in recent months occupying an impressive corner plot in established/convenient district. Accommodation includes reception hall, two bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with stylish white suite, lounge (with patio doors), boiler cupboard, enlarged/refitted kitchen with a fine range of units & various integrated appliances; well tended gardens & GARAGE with tarmac driveway approach. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £139,950

SEDGLEY

Bath Street

An EXTENDED, modernised & improved, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached conveniently situated within walking distance of so many amenities. The accommodation includes recessed porch, reception hall, store, dining room with bay, lounge with double opening doors out to the decking, extended refitted kitchen with an extensive range of units & many integrated appliances, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £137,950

PENSNETT

LARGE REAR GARDEN

Tansey Green Road

With a LARGE DRIVEWAY approach and a VERY LARGE REAR GARDEN, which backs onto fields, this TRADITIONAL SEMI DETACHED HOME has been SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED, offering a GENEROUS LAYOUT which is WELL PRESENTED, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING/ UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, comprising: Reception Hall, Attractive Lounge, Dining Room, Study/ Office Area, LARGE KITCHEN EXTENSION, TWO BEDROOMS and a GENEROUS LUXURY REFITTED BATHROOM. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC Rating: E. KINGSWINFORD 01384 401777

£134,950

SEDGLEY

Lomond Road, Northway

A gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed intermediate 'starter home' excellent situated in relatively quiet 'backwater' convenient for so many amenities. The conscientiously maintained accommodation includes 18ft reception hall, fitted cloakroom, lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen with a range of 'light beech' effect units, integrated oven, hob & filter. Three generous bedrooms, upgraded shower room, garden. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £120,000

UPPER GORNAL

Club Row

A quite exceptional, particularly stylish, freehold, gas centrally heated & primarily uPVC double glazed semi detached that has been 'transformed' by present vendors in recent years excellently situated with open to front & within reasonable walking distance of so many amenities. Superb accommodation provides lounge, refitted breakfast kitchen with a fine range of 'walnut' effect units, two bedrooms, upgraded bathroom with white suite, lengthy carport, neat rear garden. Personal inspection imperative. EPC Rating: D.SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £118,950

PENSNETT

Primrose Park

A LARGE MODERN 'MEWS' HOUSE which is located in a secluded cul-de-sac position, offering a VERY SPACIOUS, ATTRACTIVELY DECORATED and WELL APPOINTED layout, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, comprising: Large 16ft.+ Lounge, Inner Hall, ground floor Guests Cloakroom/WC, generous full width Dining Kitchen with built-in appliances, TWO LARGE DOUBLE BEDROOMS and attractive Bathroom. BLOCK PAVED PARKING/DRIVEWAY to the fore and ATTRACTIVELY LANDSCAPED PRIVATE REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating: C. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£117,950

NETHERTON

Cradley Park Road

This beautifully presented, uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, THREE BEDROOM End Townhouse is pleasantly situated in an established location, and is well worthy of internal inspection. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Re-Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with white suite, Front / Rear Gardens and allocated Parking. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£114,950

NETHERTON

NOW AVAILABLE

Chichester Avenue

An attractively improved three bedroomed home with double width drive, gas radiator heating and double glazing, requiring internal inspection having pleasant rear aspect comprising: Vestibule area, attractively fitted good size kitchen with integral oven, hob, fridge and freezer, arch to dining room area, lovely rear lounge with feature fireplace, three bedrooms, bathroom, separate toilet, rear garden with garden play house. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£111,950

NETHERTON

Ashfield Crescent

This much improved, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, three bedroomed semi detached home has undergone a comprehensive scheme of modernisation by the present owners, and is well worthy of an internal inspection. Accommodation briefly comprises: entrance hall, stylish lounge, re-fitted dining kitchen, utility, three good bedrooms, shower room with white suite, block paved driveway, and a generous rear garden. EPC Rating C. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£109,995

SEDGLEY

Cross Lane

An attractive, significantly modernised, gas centrally heated & mostly uPVC double glazed semi detached occupying an impressive corner plot in popular neighbourhood within reasonable walking distance of Sedgley's Bull Ring & all associated amenities. Well proportioned accommodation includes superb reception hall (lofty ceiling height), through living room (formerly separate lounge & dining room), upgraded kitchen, three bedrooms, recently reappointed/part tiled bathroom with stylish white contemporary suite & a shower, potential parking. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £109,950

BROCKMOOR

Newtown

This uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, Two Bedroom End Terrace is situated in an established residential location and may represent an IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY. Accommodation briefly comprises: pleasant Lounge, Re-Fitted Kitchen, Two good sized Bedrooms, modern Bathroom, ample Driveway and Rear Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£94,950

BRIERLEY HILL

Moor Street

35D MOOR STREET, BRIERLEY HILL DY5 3SP

PUBLIC NOTICE : We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £65,000. Any interested party must submit any higher offer in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place. EPC Rating C.

Taylors Estate Agents, 84-86 High Street, Brierley Hill DY5 3AW - Tel 01384 265265

DUDLEY

Edenbridge View, Milking Bank Area

50% SHARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE. Enviably situated at head of cul de sac section, a gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed semi detached in popular district within walking distance of so many amenities. Vendor's 50% share available for sale (other 50% owned by Housing Association who charge a fair market rental) with accommodation providing entrance hallway, lounge, transverse dining kitchen, store, two generous double bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, parking to front & good sized sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating: C.SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

PRICE: £62,475 FOR 50% SHARE.

Jon Stanier

www.jonstanier.co.uk ESTATE AGENTS

"Brierley Hill's Most Experienced Estate Agent"

NEW

BROCKMOOR
HIGH STREET

This unique, superbly presented Detached "Cottage" provides generously proportioned GAS CH AND UPVC DG family accom with a host of CHARM AND CHARACTER. Porch, Hall, Superb Lounge, Large Sep Dining Room, Beautiful Kitchen with built in oven and hob, Downs W.C./ Utility, Large Feature Sun Room, 2 Double Bedrooms (3rd easily created from large landing if required) Shower En-Suite, Spacious House Bathroom, Large Garage, Useful large Basement Rooms with huge potential, enclosed rear Garden and block paved Driveway. EPC=F

Offers around £199,950

NEW

QUARRY BANK
WYCHBURY ROAD

Most pleasantly situated at the head of this of this ever popular cul-de-sac, this attractively presented 2 Bed Semi-Detached Bungalow provides refreshingly spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and DOUBLE GLAZED accommodation ideal for the retired and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Briefly comprises :- Hall, spacious Lounge, good sized Kitchen, 2 double Bedrooms, refitted Shower Room, side Garage, pleasant lawned rear Gardens with southerly facing aspect and Driveway for 2 cars..EPC=TBC

Offers around £134,950

NEW

BRIERLEY HILL
FISHER STREET

Pleasantly situated in this small cul-de-sac leading from this popular and convenient address, this attractively presented 3 Bed Semi Detached provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family or First Time Buyer and briefly comprises:- Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Downstairs W.C., 3 Well Proportioned Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom with Shower, Pleasant Landscaped Good Sized Rear Gardens and Block Paved Driveway for 2 Cars to the Front. EPC=D

Offers around £98,950

NEW

BRIERLEY HILL
DADFORD VIEW

This attractively presented Modern One Bed First Floor flat provides deceptively spacious double glazed accom which is pleasantly situated on this popular and convenient development. Ideal for the First Time Buyer, young couple or single person. Briefly comprises: Exclusive Entrance Hall, Landing, spacious "open plan " Lounge with ATTRACTIVELY FITTED MODERN KITCHEN, Double Bedroom with built-in wardrobes, REFTTED BATHROOM, communally kept Gardens and allocated Car Parking Space immediately to the front. EPC=C

Offers around £64,950

REDUCED

PENSNETT
ELGAR CRESCENT

Pleasantly situated off a private driveway, this superbly presented 3 Bed Detached by David Payne provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the discerning young family. Simply must be seen. Hall, spacious Lounge, superb REFITTED DINING KITCHEN , Laundry/Utility room with Downs W.C off,3 well proportioned Bedrooms, REFITTED BATHROOM with Shower, superbly kept low maintenance rear Gardens, side Garage and block paved Driveway for 3/4 cars. EPC=D

Offers around £179,950

REDUCED

BRIERLEY HILL
CARDER DRIVE

Very pleasantly situated in this popular Cul-de-sac, this delightfull Modern 3 Bed Detached provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accomodation ideal for the young family and briefly comprises :- Hall , Downs W.C , spacious' L ' shaped Lounge with Dining Area, SUPERB REFITTED KITCHEN with built oven and hob, 3 good Bedrooms (MASTER WITH SHOWER EN SUITE OFF) fitted house Bathroom, integral Garage, pleasant lawned Rear Gardens with private outlook and Driveway for 2/3 cars. EPC=D

Offers around £147,950

BROCKMOOR
KERRY CLOSE

This superb 3 Bed Semi provides spacious GAS CH AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family and is pleasantly situated on a LARGER THAN AVERAGE plot in this popular cul-de-sac. Extended Hall, Spacious 'L' shaped Lounge with Dining Area, Superb REFITTED 'AVANTI' KITCHEN with built-in oven and hob, CONSERVATORY, 3 Excellent Bedrooms (master with superb range of custom built wardrobes), Sumptuous REFITTED BATHROOM WITH SPA BATH, Integral Garage, delightful Gardens and Driveway for 3/4 cars.EPC=D

Offers around £142,995

PENSNETT
CYGNET LANE

Occupying a most pleasant position in this popular address, this superbly refurbished 3 Bed Semi provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED family accomodation available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Viewing highly recommended with Reception Hall, stylish Lounge, superb REFITTED DINING KITCHEN with built in oven and hob, 3 good Bedrooms, stylish refitted Bathroom with shower, pleasant larger than average lawned rear Gardens, detached Garage and pleasant front gardens with paved Driveway.EPC=C

Offers around £139,950

REDUCED

OAKHAM
DINGLE CLOSE

A delightfully presented Traditional 3 Bed Semi-Detached pleasantly situated just into this sought after address and providing spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED family accomodation to include: Porch, Hall, spacious Lounge with sep Dining Area, fitted Kitchen with built-in oven and hob, 3 good Bedrooms, SUPERB REFITTED BATHROOM with sep shower, 26' Tandem side Garage, pleasant southerly facing rear Gardens and driveway to front.EPC=D

Offers around £135,000

HOLLY HALL
PENSNETT ROAD

This stylishly refurbished Traditional 3 Bed Semi-Detached provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accomodation ideal for the discerning young family and is very conveniently positioned close to Russells Hall HOSPITAL and local amenities.Hall, Lounge, refitted Dining Kitchen with built-in oven and hob, 3 excellent Bedrooms, REAPPOINTED BATHROOM WITH SHOWER, pleasant good sized rear Gardens with pleasant outlook and driveway to the front. EPC=D

Offers around £124,950

REDUCED

DUDLEY
STOURBRIDGE ROAD

This delightfully presented, much improved 2 bed Inner Terrace provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the discerning First Time buyer or young family and is very conveniently located close to RUSSELLS HALL HOSPITAl and Dudley Town Centre. Briefly comprises:-Hall, Attractive Lounge, Attractive RE-FITTED DINING KITCHEN with built-in oven and hob, Rear Lobby, 2 Good Bedrooms, Superb REFITTED BATHROOM with shower cubicle and good sized lawned Rear Gardens. EPC=D

Offers around £84,950

BRIERLEY HILL
FOXDALE DRIVE

An attractively presented Modern 2 Bed First Floor Flat providing well planned UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED acccom ideal for the First Time Buyer or single person and is pleasasntly situated on this ever popular and convenient development. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN the accommodation includes:- Communal Security Controlled Entrance, Hall, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom with Shower, Maintained Communal Gardens and allocated Car Parking Space.EPC=D

Offers over £60,000

CRADLEY HEATH
HINGLEY COURT

Superbly presented 2 Bed GROUND FLOOR Apartment provides stylish UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom and is available in conjunction with the SHARED OWNERSHIP INITIATIVE (50% SHARE). Extremely convenient for the amenities of Old Hill and Cradley Heath. Security Controlled Entrance, Hall, attractive Lounge opening to SUPERBLY FITTED KITCHEN with built in oven and hob and washing machine, 2 Excellent Bedrooms, sumptuous Bathroom with shower, Allocated Car Parking Space with secure gates and Communal Gardens.EPC=C

£49,950 for 50% Share

TO LET

BROCKMOOR
ORCHARD STREET

Attractively Presented Extended 2 Bedroom Semi● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing● Corner Plot in popular and convenient address● Spacious Interior to include :- Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Kitchen, 2 Double Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom with Shower, Side Garage, Driveway and Lawned Rear and Side Gardens. No Pets/DSS/Smokers. Available Immediately. Deposit £700.00. EPC=D

£515 PCM EX

TO LET

CRADLEY HEATH
HIGH STREET

A selection of 2 spacious well presented One Bed First Floor Flats and 1 Studio Flat very conveniently positioned in the heart of Cradley Heath High Street, with Upvc double glazing and electric heating. Suit singles or young couples. Available Immediately for either 6 or 12 months. NO PETS/DSS/SMOKERS. Deposit £500. EPC=E,F and G

£325/375 PCM EX

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KINGSWINFORD

NEW

GREENFIELDS ROAD
£650 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

GORNAL

NEW

EVE LANE
£620 pcm
Semi Detached Proeprty, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Garage

KINGSWINFORD

NEW

ROKEWOOD CLOSE
£425 pcm
Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Shower Room, Allocated Parking, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Gardens

KINGSWINFORD

NEW

SURREY DRIVE
£525 pcm
Modern Flat, Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Maintained Gardens

NETHERTON

NEW

PARK ROAD
£360 pcm
First Floor Flat, Spacious Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, Two Bedrooms, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking

COSELEY

NEW

SALCOMBE GROVE
£545 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens

KINGSWINFORD

NEW

FAIRLAWN DRIVE
£610 pcm
Semi Detached Bungalow, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking

BRIERLEY HILL

NEW

WILLIAM STREET
£550 pcm
Terraced House, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, · Double Glazing, Unfurnished

KINGSWINFORD

NEW

MANOR PARK
£575 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Gardens

WORDSLEY

NEW

SEATON PLACE
£675 pcm
Semi-Detached House, Lounge with Dining Area off, Kitchen, Walk-in Storage Cupboard, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Garage, Off Road Parking, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden

KINGSWINFORD

NEW

SANDHURST ROAD
£625 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge/ Diner, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Garage, Unfurnished

STOURBRIDGE

NEW

AUDNAM
£375 pcm
First Floor Flat, Ground Floor Entry, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished

COSELEY

NEW

LILIAN GROVE
£575 pcm
End Terrace House, Lounge, Kitchen, Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Garden, Unfurnished

DUDLEY

NEW

BOURNE STREET
£395 pcm
Modern Apartment
Lounge ● Kitchen
Two Bedrooms ● Bathroom
Economy Seven Heating
Allocated Parking ● Unfurnished
Communal Gardens

WORDSLEY

WESTMINSTER ROAD
£650 pcm
Detached House, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Downstairs Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Gardens on 3 Sides, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished

HALESOWEN

CLIFTON ROAD
£595 pcm
Semi-Detached House, Lounge/ Diner, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Garden, Garage, Unfurnished

WALL HEATH

BLAZE PARK
£695 pcm
Mid Terrace Property, Lounge & Dining Room, Kitchen, Third Reception Room, Utility, Three Bedrooms, En Suite, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking

PENSNETT

HEYDON ROAD
£595 pcm
4 New Semi-Detached Houses, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Garden, Parking for 1/2 cars.

DUDLEY

DONNINGTON COURT
£695 pcm
End Townhouse, Lounge, Kitchen, Study, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, En Suite, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking

LAKESIDE

LAKESIDE COURT
£510 pcm
First Floor Flat. Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Off Road Parking, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished.

DUDLEY

DONNINGTON COURT
£470 pcm
Second floor flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Allocated Parking

TIPTON

TIPPS STONE CLOSE
£385 pcm
Ground Floor Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedrooms, Unfurnished, Electric Heating, Off Road Parking

DUDLEY

GREYSTONE PASSAGE
FOR SALE £249,995
Large Unusual Detached Property in Central Dudley, Hall, Large Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Utility, WC, Three Good Size Bedrooms, Family Bathroom with Separate Toilet, Two Lofts, Two Garages, Off Road Parking, Lawned Rear Garden and Patio

WOMBOURNE

REYNOLDS CLOSE
FOR SALE £325,000
Detached Property, Entrance Hall & Cloakroom, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Garage/Workshop, Gas Central Heating and Partial Double Glazing.

NO LET NO FEE

NO SALE NO FEE

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GORNAL WOOD,

●EPC Rating Awaited●A Considerably Improved Bay Fronted Detached Property●Four Bedrooms●Principal Bedroom Having Refitted En-Suite Bathroom & French Doors●Fantastic Open Plan Lounge Having Bi-Fold Doors To Conservatory●Refitted House Bathroom●Ground Floor Cloakroom●Dining Room●Refitted Kitchen●Double Glazing Where Stated●Gas Central Heating System●Garage●No Chain

£265,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

UPPER GORNAL,

●EPC Rating C●An Improved Four Bedroom Semi Detached●Lounge●Kitchen Diner●Study●Utility Room●Garage●Double Glazing Where Stated●Gas Central Heating System●Rear Garden

£124,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY,

●EPC Rating Awaited●Three Bedroom Semi Detached●Through Lounge/Dining Room●Fitted Kitchen●Conservatory●Double Glazing Where Stated●Gas Central Heating System●Garage En Bloc●Enclosed Rear Garden●Viewing Recommended

£125,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

LOWER GORNAL,

●EPC Rating E●An Improved Mid Townhouse●Three Bedrooms●Lounge●Fitted Kitchen/Dining Room●Conservatory●Ground Floor Cloakroom●Double Glazing Where Stated●Gas Central Heating System●Enclosed Rear Garden●Block Paved Drive●No Chain

£120,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY,

●EPC Rating C●Modern End Townhouse●Two Bedrooms●En-Suite To Bedroom One●Lounge To Front●Kitchen Diner To Rear●Bathroom●Double Glazing Where Stated●Gas Central Heating System●Gardens To Rear & Side●Driveway

£117,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY,

●EPC Rating E●Three Bedroom Semi Detached●Lounge & Dining Room●Kitchen●Bathroom●Conservatory ●Double Glazing Where Stated●Gas Central Heating System●Extensive Rear Garden●Driveway Parking

£108,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

HOLLY HALL,

●EPC Rating Awaited●Semi Detached Property●Three Bedrooms,Two Living Rooms●Kitchen●Bathroom●Double Glazing Where Stated●Rear Garden●Driveway Parking

£102,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY,

●EPC Rating Awaited●Three Bedroom Semi Detached●Lounge>Kitchen●Bathroom To First Floor●Ground Floor Shower Room●Double Glazing Where Stated●Gas Central Heating System●Enclosed Rear Garden●No Upward Chain

£90,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

NETHERTON,

●EPC Rating F●Two Bedroom Terraced●Two Living Rooms●Kitchen●Double Glazing Where Stated●Gas Central Heating System●Corner Plot●No Chain

£69,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

SEDGLEY,

●EPC Rating C●Three Bedroom Semi Detached●Lounge●Ground Floor Bathroom●Kitchen●Double Glazing Where Stated●Gas Central Heating System●Rear Garden

£99,750 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

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45 LONGMEADOW DRIVE £243,950
SEDGLEY
●Chalet style residence
●Three bedrooms
●'L' shaped lounge/dining room & sitting area
●Corner position with attractively laid out gardens
●SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D

32 QUEENS ROAD, SEDGLEY £229,950
●Extended semi detached house with four bedrooms
●Considerably improved & well presented accommodation
●Spacious refitted bathroom with separate shower
●Spacious breakfast kitchen & utility room
●SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

28 SUNNINGDALE ROAD £199,950
SEDGLEY
●Link detached house with three bedrooms
●Extended & improved good sized accommodation
●'L' shaped lounge & separate dining room
●Popular and convenient location
●SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D

6 PRICES ROAD £199,995
LOWER GORNAL
●Detached house
●Three bedrooms
●Deceptive accommodation
●Ensuite shower room & utility room
●SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING C

16 WESTCROFT ROAD £197,950
SEDGLEY
●Well presented & improved link detached house
●Extended three bedroom accommodation
●Lounge/dining room, conservatory
●Attractive South facing rear garden
●SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D

26 DEEPDALE LANE £195,000
UPPER GORNAL
●Detached two bedroom bungalow
●Tremendous open views to the rear
●Ample off street parking & large garage
●Occupying a wider than normal plot
●SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

29 STRATHERN DRIVE £184,950
COSELEY
●Modern detached bungalow
●Two bedrooms, conservatory
●Well presented & improved
●Superb views to the rear
●SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

FLAT 10 THE LIMES £179,950
HIMLEY
●Spacious first floor two bedroom apartment
●Over 55's development
●Spacious lounge & dining area
●Delightful landscaped gardens
●SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING B

29 CEDARWOOD ROAD £174,950
LOWER GORNAL
●Well maintained & improved link detached bungalow
●Deceptive accommodation with two bedrooms
●'L' shaped lounge & dining room
●Gas central heating & double glazing
●SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D

NO UPWARD CHAIN

35 TURLS HILL ROAD, SEDGLEY £154,950
●Semi detached house with three bedrooms
●Attractively presented & much Improved accommodation
●Conservatory & side utility area
●Attractively landscaped good sized level private rear garden
●SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

198 BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD £149,950
LANESFIELD
●Detached bungalow with three bedrooms
●Generous corner plot
●Flexible accommodation
●Good sized rear garden
●SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

22 STUDLEY GATE O/A £129,950
STOURBRIDGE
●End terraced house
●Three bedrooms
●Well proportioned accommodation
●Majority gas central heating & double glazing
●SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

100 OLD PARK ROAD O/A £125,000
DUDLEY
●Extended semi detached house
●Three bedrooms
●Extended rear lounge & kitchen
●Some cosmetic updating required
●SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

21 HALL STREET £124,950
CRADLEY HEATH
●Modern semi detached house
●Three bedrooms
●Well proportioned accommodation
●Gas central heating
●SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

26 WHITEHALL DRIVE £119,950
DUDLEY
●Semi detached house
●Three bedrooms
●Well maintained accommodation
●Gas central heating & double glazing
●SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

24 FOSTER AVENUE £107,950
COSELEY
●Terraced house
●Three bedrooms
●uPVC double glazing
●Gas central heating
●SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C

4 POOL STREET £94,500
DUDLEY
●Terraced house
●Two bedrooms
●Deceptive accommodation
●Gas central heating & double glazing
●SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

540A BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD O/A £82,950
COSELEY
●Semi detached house
●Three bedrooms
●Deceptive accommodation
●Double glazing & gas central heating
●SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D

113 VIEWFIELD CRES O/A £73,950
SEDGLEY
●First floor flat
●One bedroom
●Own entrance hall
●Communal gardens
●SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING C

Sedgley Office
01902 885894

Dudley Office
01384 459999

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Motoring

A little more expensive to run than its rivals but more fun behind the wheel

MG supermini looks good has an engine with punch

The new MG3 supermini is set to tempt drivers

THE MG brand keeps plugging away and with the launch of the MG3 supermini, it looks to be on the right trajectory.

The MG3 supermini has a lot of convincing to do in a very tough corner of the market. It certainly looks good and there's a punchy 106PS engine under the bonnet.

Efficiency admittedly isn't up with the class best but extra equipment and lower pricing compared to direct rivals mean that many potential buyers may not mind that. An interesting new small car arrival offered at a very tight price.

In the dark days when the Longbridge plant closed and there was a fire sale of the last of the MG stock, it looked as if this once great company had crumbled to nothing. All it had left was the residual goodwill tied up with the badge and even that had been tarnished by corporate greed and mismanagement. It's amazing to see MG struggle to reinvent itself with Chinese vehicles assembled from kits in a small section of the once gargantuan Longbridge factory.

Chinese company SAIC launched the MG6 in this manner back in 2011. This was a car most expected to be awful but which surprised many who drove it with its smooth ride and fuss-free cabin. But when did you ever see one? Perhaps SAIC got off on the wrong foot here, launching a larger car that initially came with no diesel engine. Trying again with a supermini, the biggest selling car sector in the UK, looks a wise move. Step forward the MG3.

The MG3 was designed with the intention of being fun to drive, the chassis having been subjected to many thousands of miles of testing on European roads. The first cars offered to drive in China were rather harshly sprung but MG promised to fit springs and dampers that offered a more supple feel for UK roads. The engine is a 1.5-litre 106PS four-cylinder unit that naturally drives the front wheels.

There's nothing revolutionary about the suspension which is fairly standard set-up with MacPherson struts up front and a torsion beam at the rear.

Blended

You also get a drive-by-wire braking system and an electrically-assisted power steering set up.

The exterior styling looks quite smart, if maybe a little supermini-generic in a way that could have been produced from one of many manufacturers in this sector if you covered the badges over. Still, because the MG3 looks to undercut many of the established names, this rather blended styling is perhaps to its credit.

It continues the design theme introduced on the MG ZERO concept vehicle and the company claims it's "a distinctive statement of modern British style designed to target young and style conscious buyers". Make of that what you will. The interior will come as a welcome relief to anybody who's a bit baffled by the complexity and deep technology of many modern superminis. Climb out of a Peugeot 208, with its self-parking system and tablet computer style central infotainment system and, without being unduly blunt, it's very different. Still, the MG3 is tidy inside with seats that look and feel very Volkswagen.

This new car is an interesting arrival on the small scene, **Andy Enright** reports and comes at a prices that start under £8,500

There are a few white touches around the stereo, on the steering wheel, the door pulls, handbrake and gear lever but aside from that, everything is uniformly grey.

Sit in the back seats and you'll find the front seats are sculpted to improve leg room, while the rear headroom is genuinely impressive. Prices start at under £8,500, getting you this supermini-sized car for less than the kind of money you'd pay for a little citycar.

All models get signature front LED lights and a hill holder clutch as standard, with all but the entry model featuring a high quality DAB audio system.

Tally

Safety-wise, there are six airbags, electronic stability control, corner brake control and traction control.

The entry-level model is the MG3 3TIME which features a CD player with MP3 compatibility and Aux-in facility. Next up is the MG3 3FORM which adds air conditioning, that DAB radio, Bluetooth with audio streaming, a leather MG-design steering wheel with red stitching and steering wheel audio controls to the tally. A '3FORM SPORT' variant also adds a bodykit and 16" alloy wheels.

At the top of the range is the MG3 3STYLE with premium 16" "Diamond" alloy wheels and a sports body styling pack that includes the rear boot spoiler and side sill extensions. Standard high-tech convenience features include cruise control, automatic lights and windscreen wipers and reverse parking sensors, all for around £10,000.

The key attraction for many people will be how much fun you can have creating your own MG3, with its huge range of colours, exterior graphics, interior colour packs and leather upholstery created by the UK design team and inspired by the British fashion industry.

Of course, the downside of getting a lot more engine is getting a fair bit less fuel economy and the MG3 can't hope to bend the laws of physics and return better fuel figures than many eco specials. Residuals are something of an unknown at present.

Squeezes

Overall, you're looking a car that will be a little more expensive to run than its immediate price rivals but will offer more fun behind the wheel. And it will be cheap to insure, rated at just 4E.

There's a spark of real promise around this MG3. The five-door shape squeezes a lot of styling into its four metre length and the price and equipment levels look very competitive, though of course MG has a long way to go in this country before it can mix it with the big names.

With more power to call upon than its rivals, this car promises to be a far more effervescent steer than, say, a much pricier and poorly equipped entry-level Skoda Fabia. Of course, it won't be quite as efficient to run as one of those. Still, the value proposition ought to compensate for much of that.

Overall then, it's trendy, tightly priced, good to drive, spacious and cheap to insure. If MG can get its marketing right, a significant number of people might be tempted by all that.

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2005 (55 Reg) Vauxhall Tigra 16V Twinport 1.4L 2 door, 53,000 miles £3,999

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†Model shown is an MG3 3Style in White On The Tiles with no optional extras at £9,999 OTR. ††On the road price of £8,399 applies to the MG3 3Time with no optional extras. On the road (OTR) prices include VAT where applicable, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and 12 months' Road Fund Licence. Costs exclude optional metallic paint, accessories and graphics packages. *Flexible Warranty - A 3yr/ 60,000 mile warranty is standard on all new MG3 models. Flexible Warranty options are available only at time of vehicle purchase at an additional cost. Packages include the following options: 4yrs or 60,000 miles, 4yrs or 100,000 miles, 5yrs or 60,000 miles, 5yrs or 80,000 miles, 5yrs or 100,000 miles. Fuel consumption: figures shown are based on official EU test figures and are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results. Please see MG.CO.UK or ask your local dealer.

Fuel Consumption MPG (l/100km) for MG3 range: Urban 37.7 (7.5), Extra Urban 57.6 (4.9), Combined 48.7 (5.8), CO_2 Emissions 136 g/km.

MGDA4P1113

Motoring

Suzuki now extending VAT offer on Alto city motor

The Alto is aimed at younger drivers and the VAT offer takes £1,200 off the entry price of an SZ model

YOUNG car buyers have some early festive cheer, with the announcement that Suzuki has extended its 'VAT-free' offer on the cute Alto city car model until the end of the year.

The deal effectively takes £1,200 off the list price of the entry-level Alto SZ. That makes the five-door runabout just £5,999 to buy, and with a low deposit of £779 it can be driven away for £99 per month.

A final balloon payment of £2,352 after 41 monthly rentals secures the car and completes the purchase.

The Alto is aimed at younger or budget-conscious buyers with fuel economy topping 65mpg, insurance rated in group 4E and CO2 emissions of just 99g/km, making it road-tax free under the current UK rules.

The offer is only valid until the end of December, though, so to take advantage visit your local Suzuki dealer.

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Plenty of flexibility in this mini MPV from Vauxhall

By David Banner

LET'S face facts. Much as Vauxhall have tried to convince us to the contrary, mini-MPVs in general and the Zafira in particular are not about tyre-shredding power and performance. They're bought for other reasons such as practicality, safety and ease of ownership.

This is why for most people, the 1.6-litre entry-level model is, in fact, a better car than the 240bhp ripsnorting Zafira VXR.

Less, in this instance, is most definitely more.

You probably won't care that it takes 13.9 seconds to get to 60mph and that the top speed of 109mph isn't going to make you the Obergruppenfuhrer of the autobahn.

Benign

No, what's more germane is the almost diesel-like fuel consumption figure of 39.2mpg and a CO2 emissions figure of just 172g/km.

The engine is a benign unit that revs sweetly and only really feels its capacity when you've loaded the vehicle to capacity or are attempting to set a stiff target time for Lance Armstrong on a Category III climb.

Steering feel has improved noticeably with the Zafira in recent times and other aspects such as the gearchange have been finessed. Ride quality and body control have improved dramatically from the first generation model, thanks in no small part to a completely redesigned suspension system.

The torsion beam rear axle also helps packaging, being especially compact, and allowing for a flat floor with no suspension intrusion. The one thing you can never have enough of in an MPV-style vehicle is space and sure enough, the tale of the tape reveals that the Zafira has succumbed, if not to middle age spread, then at least to a little loosening of the belt.

This is perhaps understandable given the fact that with utility vehicles like the Meriva mopping up sales in the supermini-MPV class and no recognised full-sized MPV contender, there was a vacuum into which the Zafira would be drawn.

Six inches longer, 1.5 inches wider and a shade taller than the first generation car, the current Zafira retains the seven-seat configuration, with a middle bench seat offering three berths and two seats in the back that also fold flat into the floor.

What has changed is the amount of legroom on offer to the occupants. Whereas the first generation car would have been hideously cramped with all seven seats in use, the latest model offers a little more breathing space. It's still not ideally suited to a rugby sevens team and their kit, but for the larger family, it's close to perfect.

Guises

As before, the seating system is so versatile that the Zafira can be configured in two, three, four, five, six or seven seat guises in a matter of seconds.

Most buyers will run in five-seat format, and in this mode the Vauxhall can cope with 620-litres of luggage '' fully 20 more than the old car.

Depending on the trim level, the Zafira can also boast up to 30 storage compartments.

The 'Flex Organiser' luggage bay stowage system that has proved a success with Astra Estate buyers is also available on the Zafira.

Don't believe the hype that the Flex7 system is instantly intuitive. Some reference to the manual and a certain degree of practice is required before you can say you've mastered the seating system.

It is to the Astra that the Zafira owes many of its exterior design cues. Whereas the first generation Zafira was clearlyrelated to the Astra Mk IV, the current model looks for all the world like a MkV Astra Estate that's been attached to a garage air line.

A particularly interesting feature is the optional panorama roof. With four large glass panels, this system offers passengers a light, airy atmosphere in the back, while tinted g lass and a powered shade protect against dazzle.

A centre console running the length of the ceiling has a number of overhead compartments.

Built in a £300 million state-of-the-art facility in Bochum, Germany, the latest Zafira is built to a zero defect principle and the results are apparent inside the cabin.

Although it doesn't feel quite as bulletproof as the Astra inside, it's still a very impressive effort.

The 1.6-litre versions of the Zafira are probably pipped by the diesel models as the best buy in the range, but if funds won't permit you to stretch to one of the CDTi engines, the 1.6-litre petrol is no sorry substitute.

It's a tough and willing powerplant wrapped in one of the best mini-MPVs money can buy.

Vauxhall hit the mother lode with the last Zafira and look set to do so againwith this latest version.

This Zafira is six inches longer and 1.5 inches wider than the previous

For the larger family the Vauxhall Zafira is close to perfect

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4 Pets & Animals

pets corner

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1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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equestrian corner

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5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

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commercial premises sale / let

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commercial premises

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6 Property

accommodation to let

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NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

BILSTON CENTRE spacious un furnished ground floor flat, 1 bedroom, £430pcm. 07968 052936.

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COVEN HEATH 2-bed End Terraced House, garden overlooks fields, Deposit and Refs req. £550pcm. 07730 989662.

DUDLEY ONE bed second floor flat, GCH, DG, parking, £345pcm, no DSS. 07966 494138.

FLATS TO RENT Dudley / W'ton. 0800 131 3348/0300 123 3511 contactus@sanctuary-housing.co.uk

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13 Green Road, Dudley
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Guide: £54,000-£59,000

90 Whitegates Road, Coseley
First Floor, 2 Bedroom Leasehold Apartment
Guide: £38,000-£43,000

45 Chelmarsh Avenue Castlecroft, Wolverhampton
Three Bedroom End Terraced Property
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284 Tat Bank Road, Oldbury , West Midlands
Three Bedroom Mid Terraced Property
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31 Norton Crescent, Bilston, Wolverhampton
Three Bedroom End Terraced Property
Guide: £39,000-£44,000

22 Ash Road, Dudley
Three Bedroom Semi Detached Property
Guide: £50,000

324 Deans Road, Wolverhampton
Three Bedroom Semi Detached Property
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41 Brynmawr Road, Lanesfield, Wolverhampton
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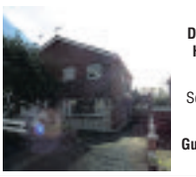

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Guide: £85,000

Commercial Investment

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Commercial Investment Property with Vacant Residential Flat above
Current Gross Income: £4,800 pa
Guide: £68,000-£73,000

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Freehold Development Site
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THREE BED Wolverhampton, newly refurbished new kitchen / bathroom, CH, DG. 07866 795859.

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8 Motoring

cars over £1500

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CITROEN C1 VTR, 1.0 09 Reg, 49,000 miles, 3Dr, 12 months MoT and tax, excellent condition, £2,995. 07944 851506.

FORD FIESTA 62 reg, new shape, 4000 miles from new, company car forces sale. Must sell £4,995. 07405 1553308.

FORD FOCUS 02, silver, tax, MoT, radio, CD, 72,000 miles, good condition, £1,950. ono. 07760 887220.

HONDA CIVIC SE CTDi 1.7
Diesel, black, 2004, 88,000 miles, 12 months MoT, 6 months tax, FSH, 4 new tyres, recently serviced, new cambelt, excellent condition.
£3,100 ono.
Telephone 07811 878705.

HYUNDAI i10 CLASSIC, 2010, 23,000 miles, 12 months MoT, tax to February 2014, bargain £4,500. 01902 472892/07969 576890.

MERCEDES 220 Touring Estate, 1994, excellent condition, service history, 90,000 miles, £1,800. 07931 979265.

MITSUBISHI COLT 1.3, 56 reg, very good condition, 54k miles, usual extras, genuine sale, £1,950 ovno. 07977 174776. (Stourbridge).

NISSAN X-TRAIL TDi SPORT 2003, Diesel, 6 speed manual, silver, Tax, MoT September, £2,850.ono. 01902 747180 / 07774 898966.

PEUGEOT 207 1.4S, 09 reg, 5 door, tax, MoT, silver, 15,500 miles, lady owner, very good condition, fsh, £4,750 ono. 07886 781724.

PEUGEOT 307, 07 Reg, 5Dr, 47,000 miles, grey, 12 months MoT, excellent condition, £1,995. 07944 851506.

★ **PEUGEOT 307S**, 2006, 62,000 miles, grey, abs, electric windows, air con, long MoT, pas, tax, CD, petrol, £2,395 ono. 07904 088708.

PEUGEOT 406 ESTATE
Diesel, rapier 2.0 HDi 110, 2003, metallic blue, ABS, EW, air bag, EM, air con, FSH, alarm, CL, PAS, long tax and MoT, alloys, CD, leather interior, auto lights and rain sensor.
£950.
07871 913497.

PEUGEOT 407 1.6SE HDi Black, 04 54, 92,000 miles, taxed and MoT'd, SH, very clean. £1,999 ono. 07527 230756.

PORSCHE BOXSTER 2001, convertible, electric roof, blue leather, alloys, hifi, fsh, MoT, reduced £4,749. 01902 405262. 07824 495604.

SKODA FABIA 4 door saloon 2003, 27,500 miles, Silver, electric windows, fsh, long MoT, central locking, tax, £2,500. 0121 429 5008

SKODA FABIA ESTATE Bohemia 1.4, diesel estate, black, 56 reg., tax, MoT, fsh, 76k miles, extras, one owner, £3,150. 07909 012440.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2, SXI, black, 2005, 56k miles, electric windows, PAS, alloys, CD player, lovely condition, £2,200 ono. 07961 314920.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2sxi, Silver, 05 plate. Rare ac model, FSH, 29k miles. MOT Aug 14. Warranty / part ex ava £2495 ono. 07543 481453 T

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4, 07, metallic grey, 5dr, alloys, CD, tax, MoT, good clean car, £3,100 ono. 01902 336638 or 07970 965395.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.2 elite, petrol, 07, top spec, excellent condition, 33k miles +, economical, tax, Mot, £2,750. 01902 782202.

VAUXHALL VECTRA ESTATE
2007, 116,000 miles, MoT, Tax, diesel, CD, navigation built in, many new parts including clutch and fly wheel.
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07515 677233.

VAUXHALL INSIGNIA. SRI 2.0CDTI 160BHP, 11 REG
Automatic, Vauxhall full service history, carbon Flash Black. Privacy glass. Bluetooth. Super condition. 7 months Vauxhall warranty left. Hatchback diesel, 55k miles tax April 14, electric windows, satnav, CD, Sports seats,18ins alloys, cruise, central locking, alarm, immobiliser
£9,250. 07971 365912

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Excellent condition.
£4,750.
01902 330278.

MUST BE SEEN

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Exclusiv 1.6i petrol, 2009, 58 plate, only 38k miles, blue, fsh, MoT Dec 2014, tax April 2014, economical MPV, £5,095 ono. 07806 603116.

VW POLO 1.2 petrol, 2003, black, 3dr, MoT Jun 14, tax Jan 14, fsh, £1,995. 07838 897643

cars under £1500

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MUST BE SEEN

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Diesel, Desire, 5 door, 2005, 69,000 miles, silver, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, alarm, long MoT and tax, metallic paint, central locking, one owner from new, pas, sunroof, stereo, CD, spots.
£4,250 ono.
01543 377728.

CITROEN SAXO 1.1, P reg, tax January, 10 months MoT, cheap runner, £350 ono. 07899 831851.

FORD ESCORT 1.8 TD LX 5 door, white, R 98, long MoT, looks and drives excellent, £325. 07527 377228.

FORD FIESTA FINESSE
5-dr hatchback, 2004, silver, 72,619 miles, taxed and MoT'd till April 2014, tow bar, roof rack, small crack on back bumper,
£1,450 ono.
01902 831363. 07966 375973.

FORD FIESTA Zetec 1.2, 54K miles, 11 months MoT, 1998 (P reg), good runner, reliable, £450 ono. 07450 019424.

FORD FIESTA Zetec,1.4, 03 plate, blue, 8 months MoT, good condition, £1,499. 07733 123312.

FORD FOCUS 1.8 Zetec, X reg, 5dr, dark blue, full MoT, taxed, £700 ono. 07718 111739.

HONDA CIVIC 1998 1.4, 4 door, long tax and MoT'd, reliable, clean, £395. 07419 331023.

HONDA CIVIC 1998 4 door, long tax and MoT'd, reliable, clean, £425. 07419 331023.

MERCEDES BENZ 1993, red, prestine condition, 3 owners from new, tax and MoT, 4 new tyres, £1,200 ono. 01922 445018.

MERCEDES E300 TD Avant Garde, 98, silver, new ignition key/barrel, cost £850. Sell for spares. Offers 01902 845974 or 07837 362124.

MGF CONVERTIBLE 1998, taxed and MoT'd, good runner. £795 ono. 07775 847334.

MITSUBISHI PININI GDi, petrol, 2001, 61,000 miles, excellent condition, 10 months MoT, £1,200 ono. 01902 530305.

NISSAN MICRA S, X reg, electric blue, SR, nice clean little car, MoT and tax, £695. 07789 893224.

PEUGEOT ESCAPADE MPV
2.0HDi, 55 reg, excellent runner, full MoT, tax, serviced, high mileage, low price, private sale.
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07833 683370.

PEUGEOT 206 CABRIOLET, 53 reg, electric roof, 119k miles, 9 months MoT, lovely car, **£1,500. 07773 465749.**

RENAULT CLIO 1.2 Expression, 51 plate, silver, 12 months MoT, taxed, 79,000 miles, excellent condition, £950 ono. 07866 161574.

RENAULT CLIO Club Med, 1.2, P reg, grey, full 12 months MoT, tax until May 2014, 37,060 miles, £400. 07811 426264.

RENAULT CLIO Privilege, 5dr, 01, 51k, tax, MoT, full electrics, CD player. Good condition, very reliable. £825 ono. 01902 491707.

ROVER 200 BRM , full MoT, fsh, very rare car, £550 ono. 07773 924881.

ROVER 45 1.8, 52,000 miles, 1 owner, tax / MoT Sep 2014, Air con, front spots, £1,395. 01384 895565.

ROVER CITY Select, 1405cc, 05 reg, Blue, MoT Sept 14, 32,180 miles only, £850. 07812 641951. Wolverhampton.

SKODA OCTAVIAGLXi, 2000, red, MoT April 2014, CD, alloys, all electrics, beautiful condition, drives superb. £550. 01543 425045.

BARGAIN

VAUXHALL ASTRA
1.6. X reg. 2000.
Silver. 5 door. 82,000 miles.
Taxed until April 2014.
MoT'd until end October 2014.
Good runner.
Ideal first car.
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01902 673978.

BARGAIN

VAUXHALL ASTRA Estate 1.7 DTi, blue, 52 plate 139k, good condition very reliable, tax Jan, MoT July £900 No offers. 01384 402208.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2SXi Silver, 52 reg, MoT, tinted windows, EM, PAS, good condition £659. 07546 438009.

commercial vehicles

FORD TRANSIT Connect, 07, silver, 46,000 miles, excellent runner, £4,200 No VAT. 07943 273696.

FORD TRANSIT V reg, tax and MoT'd, low mileage, good runner, £800 ono. 07909 857811.

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motorbikes

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28YR old female, seeking male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408639**

SUE 40's female who enjoys evenings in/out looking for someone to have some fun and hopefully get close to, go on, give me a ring. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407019** 📱

68YR old lady, likes gardening, meals out, days out, looking for sincere gent to share time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408413**

JENNY single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408285** 📱

BUBBLY 60 plus lady, slim, fair hair, comfy in jeans and leather jacket, seeks similar male for friendship etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408859**

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MARIA gorgeous outgoing bbw 27, good fun, caring, romantic, looking for that special someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408733** 📱

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ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 366019**

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CHRIS blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407615** 📱

ATTRACTIVE female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406135**

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MANDY divorced independent 46yr old single mum, confident, bubbly and social, looking for male companion to share good times and to be there for each other. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407469** 📱

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LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651** 📷

NICKY 26 fun single female who has been on her own far too long desperately seeking her Prince Charming, must be tactile and possess the ability to fall in love, **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407485** 📱

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TIM easygoing honest male, discreet, uninhibited, seeks similar non conformist averagely attractive, N/S female up to 65. Notts. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375065**

GENT 48, youthful outlook, likes countryside, keep fit, karaoke, seeks soul mate for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408411**

ATTRACTIVE male, 55, seeks older female, 50-70 for close, adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397189**

SHY 60yr old male, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407847**

LONELY male, 55, seeks Indian/Jamaican female, 25 plus for sincere relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408957**

MARK 44, 6ft, dark hair, businessman, interesting, seeking sporty female for meals out, day trips, country walks etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408571**

FUN loving male, 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, seeks mature female, 50-65 for meals out and daytime relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408185**

JIMMY 53 good looking, fit, genuine, honest, very loving and looking for the same in a woman. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397157** 📷

GENUINE good looking male, 39, WLTM genuine, pretty female, 24-42 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407753**

32YR old slim, dark haired, adventurous, creative, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753** 📷

JEFF 60's, 6ft 2ins, fit, seeking lady, mid 50-60's for friendship/relationship, nights in/out and good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407811**

ROMANCE wanted in Nuneaton. 5ft 10ins, medium build male, 41, seeking a relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406683**

BROADMINDED 67yr old male, fit, active, GSOH, caring, loving, seeks N/S female, open minded, 62-69 for genuine LTR. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407785**

TONY semi retired teacher with lots of interests including sport, theatre, walking, OHAC, WLTM professional female to share interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404637**

MALE 51, seeks lady to spoil and pamper. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313191**

IAN 5ft 10ins, 55, caring, honest, looking for sincere female with good personality, 45-55, enjoy being out, socialising, meals. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 382997**

MATURE land owner, GSOH, youthful outlook, likes countryside, socialising, history, seeks lady who appreciates good food/conversation with view to relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408417**

BROADMINDED 42yr old male, GSOH, caring, loving good personality seeks female for fun friendship, relationship and adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404623**

MATURE male, lonely, no ties, attractive, likes TV, reading, walks, holidays, meals out, seeks attractive, smart female, 65-72 to share simple things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408183**

MAURICE Shropshire farmer, 43, seeks farming lady of any age to share the good things in life with view to LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 374021** 📷

MALE 58, good looking, placid, seeks honest, loyal, caring female with view to becoming soul mates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400313**

SINGLE male, youthful, serene, seeks similar down to earth non materialistic female to become everlasting soul mates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407711**

CHRIS divorced, 55, smoker, seeks female, 30-45 for lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407715**

GAY SINGLES

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892** 📷

GAY guy 58, Shropshire, seeks male 30-80 for friend, companion or long-term relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407819**

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Coseley battered by feast of goals

Wolves Ladies 11
Coseley Town Ladies 0

COSELEY LADIES where on the receiving end as Wolves Women returned to winning ways in the Birmingham County Cup.

Wolves dominated from the opening, scoring on 15 minutes when Jamillah Palmer turned in Jordan Timmins-Ray's cross.

Dani Selmes doubled the lead five minutes later.

The second half saw Selmes make it 3-0 shortly after the restart, before Palmer's free-kick found the bottom of the net.

Dominique Luke found Selmes in the box just before the hour, and she claimed her hat-trick .

Palmer followed suit four minutes later to give Wolves a 6-0 lead. Timmins-Ray made it seven before Palmer grabbed her fourth.

Left-back Laura McQuilkin added two stunning strikes from 30 yards in the last few minutes, as Palmer swapped positions with goalkeeper Natalie Hall.

With seconds left, Rebecca Large raced down the right wing to cross for Hall to finish.

Runners in their stride for contest

ATHLETES from Stourbridge running club were in full stride for the the Birmingham Cross Country League at Newbold Comyn, Leamington Spa and run by Leamington Cycling and Athletic Club.

The A team were third and the B team came in second.

Runners on the day were: Duncan Cornish, Chris Blake, Kevin Burke, Pete Walters, Adam Harris, Rob Colman, Andy Aston, David Sheppard, Matt Sutton, Paul Giles, Mark farnan and Paul Bradley.

The Ladies team came 22nd, with Joan Clarke, Natalie Dellar, Zoe Yeomand and Jane Tibbitts running for the club.

Then as part of the North Staffordshire Cross Country League, held at Park Hall, Staffordshire and hosted by Trentham RC and Blythe Bridge RC last weekend the men's team were fifth in division two and the ladies finished 12th in division two. First to cross the line was Duncan Cornish.

Yellow card opens the door to defeat

Rugby

Newport 14 Old Halesonians7

A NON-LEAGUE Saturday saw Hales first team travel to Newport in Shropshire for a rerun of last year's cup game that ended in victory for the old boys

This time Hales took the opportunity to blood new players and have a look at how the second team were developing.

Seven regular first team combined as part of a young squad of 18 with no one looking out of place.

Newport fielded a near full strength side but the visitors took the game to them immediately, led by skipper for the day Rich Sawyer.

Early exchanges were even with new front row of Dan Blake, Sam Jones and Jon Deeks holding their own in early scrums.

Hales backs looked good with scrum half Greg Smith giving regular service to fly half Alex Herbert, who distributed well.

The Robinson brothers, Carl at centre and Andy at full back, combined well with Andy Holloway, Simon Sabel and Alex Church to attack the home side.

The pack led by Sawyer and Dan Young at No8 produced some rugged defence to secure ball for the backs to run resulting in a try for Holloway after 20 minutes, converted by Andy Robinson for a 0-7 lead. The home side were on the back foot with aggressive play from debutant Jake Hayden-Wright, who was everywhere and showing true potential supported by Pete Lewis, Tom King and prop Dan Blake in attack.

Newport began to work well together and earned a converted try before half time, to draw leve.

Hales should have taken more initiative with the slope advantage in the first half but really stuck at the task well.

The second half saw Hales put on all replacements, Duffy for Lewis, prop David Whiting for Sam Jones and wing Rhys Denham for Alex Church.

Second row Tom King received a yellow card for collapsing a maul and the attacking forwards of Newport took over for a converted try 14-7.

Hales regrouped and Denham was tackled feet from the try line just before the full time whistle .

Stourbridge 38 OHRFC 3rds 15

Old Hales played well in this derby game and kept Stourbridge to 14-5 at half time with both of their tries coming from Old Hales errors. Old Hales tries came from Harry Higgs, Matt Weaver and Lee Davis. Top-notch running from Ben Perks gave Hales numerous chances but they failed to convert.

Wednesbury 3rd 21 OH 4th 7

Old Hales Colts lost a hard-fought game. Having gone two tries down they came back to within a score but gave away an intercepted try in the dying minutes when counter-attacking. A strong run from Conor Leahy resulted in the try for Hales.

Male's big hopes for title lying in tatters

CHRIS MALE'S hopes of becoming the British super featherweight champion lie in tatters after he was knocked by Troy James, ***writes Craig Birch***.

The Cradley fighter had already been decked at Walsall Town Hall on Saturday. Male was first sent to the canvas from a booming right hand .

His defences were still down when Coventry's James launched another right hook, which left him flat out.

Referee Howard Foster called straight for the bell, signalling the end of a scheduled 10-round contest, and gestured for medical attention. Male left the ring under his own steam.

In the night's other title fight, Stafford's Rob Hunt was counted out against Stourbridge's Steven Pearce. There was equal disaster for Tipton's Ainsley Ratcliffe, who lost his professional debut on points against Hungarian visitor Csaba Kovacs at flyweight.

There were no such problems for Halesowen's Lennox Clarke, who scored an impressive second round stoppage over the never-before-halted James Child on his paid bow.

Defensive errors cost Town in away defeat

Football

Boldmere St Michael's 3 Tipton Town 2

TIPTON'S return to familiar territory finished in narrow defeat as defensive mishaps ended up costing them in a narrow battle.

For the third time this season, Tipton visited Boldmere, after sharing a win each in their FA Cup and FA Vase ties.

Boasting a 100 per cent home record in the league, Boldmere took the lead early on when a cleverly worked corner routine saw Ricky Baker's shot from the edge of the area beat James Pemberton.

Tipton had an opportunity to draw level when a shot by debutant Theo Robinson was spilled by keeper James Beeson but to safety.

Two minutes later Connor Gater thumped a header goalbound from a corner only to see it cleared off the line.

The Mikes doubled their lead on 27 minutes when the dangerous Lee Obsorne slotted home in style.

Just when it seemed the home side may be on to a comfortable victory, Town hit back when Marvin Nisbett fed Mensah Kinch and his lofted shot caused Beeson all sorts of problems as it came off the bar.

However, Danny Ashton was in the right place at the right time to bundle home.

The second half saw the game ebb and flow with Osborne coming close on 54 minutes with a long-range effort and Joe Lyng headed just over on 63 minutes.

Boldmere restored the two-goal lead on 74 minutes when slapstick defending allowed Ryan Edmunds to convert another goal from a corner.

It looked like Connor Gater might be able to get Tipton out of jail two minutes later when he smashed home his third in three games to make it 3-2.

And Tipton turned up the pressure in a bid to grab an equaliser with Ben Hadley's shot well saved on 80 minutes and Lee Wherton unable to get the required connection to finish.

The well-organised Boldmere defence held out well under significant pressure to record their eighth win in eight games at home.

Tipton now travel to Heath Heather St John's at home on Saturday.

Heathens awards night is a roaring success

Sport Dudley Heathens speedway team with world champion Tai Woffinden. *Picture John Hipkiss Photography*

FANS packed out the Earls Suite at Brierley Hill's Copthorne Hotel to celebrate a record-breaking season for Dudley Heathens.

More than 400 supporters and guests applauded the riders who enjoyed a record-breaking season with a clean sweep of National League honours.

World Champion Tai Woffinden made the journey from his Scunthorpe home to make the presentations and, despite old rivalry between the former Cradley club and Woffinden's club Wolverhampton, he was given a standing ovation.

There was an added piece of good news, too, from the British Speedway AGM that Dudley was named track of the year by referees votes.

Skipper Ashley Morris was named rider of the year after votes by fans through the club's website and he was handed the Ivor Hughes award by Woffinden.

The Wayne Garratt Memorial award for most improved rider went to 16-year-old Max Clegg and fellow teenager Nathan Greaves won most bonus points.

Club sponsor Dave Burns of Recycled Aggregates named Gareth Isherwood and Morris as recipients of a holiday as promised pre-season.

And the Max Cartwright Memorial award went to Clegg in memory of a lifelong supporter who passed away in February.

Heathens Chairman Nigel Pearson said: "It was everything we expected from the evening and I congratulate all our award winners."

Both scores disputed in Cradley win

Shifnal Town 1
Cradley Town 2

CRADLEY Town handed out a defeat to Shifnal on their home turf in the West Midlands Premier League.

However, Shifnal's boss Richard Gardner was left fuming as he disputed both goals in the 2-1 loss.

Gardner was adamant that both of the visitors' strikes should have been ruled offside.

And despite an Andy Rich penalty for the hosts, they slipped to a fourth successive league defeat at the hands of James Welnitschuk who scored both goals for Cradley.

Gardner said: "I was really pleased with the performance from the players and we feel hard done by. The lads deserved better."

Meanwhile the Black Country Rangers hammered Wellington Amateurs 4-1 with Amateurs' Casimir Monsessie netting a consolation.

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SPORT

Errors are costly
Tipton suffer a narrow defeat as defence falters
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Award night
Heathens enjoy season's end bash
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Yeltz in full cry as they hit five

Halesowen Town 5
Bedworth United 0

HALESOWEN stormed into second spot with a seventh successive home league victory in front of their largest league attendance this season.

Asa Charlton returned to the Grove after almost a decade away and Kristian Green, Curtis Tilt and Avun Jephcott all celebrated their first-ever Yeltz goals as Bedworth's basement battlers laboured with 10 men for almost 80 minutes.

Bedworth captain Anthony Newton was shown a straight red card for bringing down Iyseden Christie as he burst free in the penalty area. Christie smacked home the penalty kick to hand Halesowen a 13th minute lead.

Jephcott wasted a good chance in front of goal after 35 minutes but a tactical change in formation before the interval opened the floodgates with three goals in a nine-minute spell early in the second half to put the Yeltz in complete control.

Green swept home a long throw-in from Tom Tonks, substitute Nigel Penney crossed for central defender Tilt to head home and Christie tapped home his second after Aaron Griffiths was denied by Greenbacks keeper Sheridon Martinez.

With five minutes remaining Jephcott completed the 5-0 victory.

Glassboys in Cup replay

FA Carlsberg Trophy 3rd Qualifying Round
Stourbridge 2 North Ferriby United 2

A stoppage time equaliser from Will Richards earned Stourbridge a replay.

They led a charmed life at times against their higher ranked Skrill North visitors, as Gary Hackett's men struggled to get to grips with a strong and lively United attack.

Stourbridge striker Luke Benbow picked up a booking within 10 seconds.

The home side shaded a rather scrappy opening period, but they fell behind with 13 minutes gone Jamie Oliver conceded a penalty.

Jarman fired and sent Dean Coleman the wrong way.

In the 69th minute Stourbridge drew level thanks to Luke Benbow. Jarman looked like he hit the match-winer but Richards' goal set up a replay.

Tividale make mincemeat out of tough Quorn

Quorn FC 0 Tividale FC 3

Football

THIS was possibly the best Tividale performance of the season.

Messrs Scriven and Long reverted to the 'Saturday side' and brought back Richard Huckfield, Mark Smith, Chris Field, David Bellis, Ryan Winwood and Nathan Waite after being rested for the cup win in midweek against Pelsall Villa.

To their justification, Tividale continued their amazing league run to win their 13th straight league game since the start of the season and establish themselves very much as the team to beat.

From the off the visitors were at the home side and to the surprise of the large following of Tividale supporters, Waite actually missed a chance in the first minute, turning a Michael Wardle cross just wide of the post with debutant Quorn keeper Jake Weekes well beaten.

Quorn did not learn their lesson and on 16 minutes the same duo teamed up to put the visitors in front as Waite made no mistake.

The rest of the half was end to end stuff as both teams went at each other. Quorn opting to give up midfield advantage and going for a 4-3-3 formation, while Tividale stayed with their tried and trusted 4-4-2 helping to produce a thrilling first half.

Tividale may feel they should have added to their goal tally in those first 45 minutes earning a succession of corners, but Quorn defended well.

At the other end a Callum Earls one-on-one and then a Dominic Brennan effort were well-saved by Tividale keeper Charles Price.

The beginning of the second half was a much cagier affair with both defences tightening up and limiting the space that they had allowed in the first half.

It was now a case of whoever scored the next goal would have the upper hand and on 67 minutes the all important goal went to the visitors.

The exceptional Wardle was brought down in the box and despite Quorn's appeals the referee had no doubt and Stuart How made no mistake from the spot.

The goal seemed to end the home team's resolve and from then on it was one-way traffic as Tividale, with the two goal cushion, took the game to Quorn and dominated the rest of the game.

The inevitable third came on 75 minutes when Waite tapped in after good work from How and substitute Leigh Downing.

NO END TO MISERY AS DK SUNK AGAIN

DK 17 Caldy 43

DK'S woeful season continued with another defeat this time at the hands of Caldy.

Rugby

The team showed seven changes following last week's defeat by Birmingham Solihull. Connah Jones replaced Josh Barnbrook at fullback. Gareth Brown came into the centre following his return from Abu Dhabi, where he was partnered by Tom Scrivens.

Steve Blackburn returned to the front row together with Matt Humphreys and Captain Ed Parry replaced Mike Cowern in the second row. The seventh was positional, with Luke Greenwood moving to the back row at the expense of Sam Pedley.

DK took the lead in three minutes. Following their own lineout Donovan Smile broke the Caldy defence to score, Kieran Pinches converted

Dominated

The home side dominated the game for the next eight minutes. However, on 15 minutes DK were caught out of position and Caldy centre Gavin Roberts crossed the line unopposed. Richard Vasey added the extras.

There then followed eight minutes of total madness by DK, with Caldy securing 19 unanswered points.

Caldy struck back as fullback Josiah Dickson crashed through some very weak tackling to score. Vasey added the extras.

Within four minutes, Caldy had further increased their lead and Vasey added the extra points.

From the restart the ball was dropped by DK. The loose ball was gathered by the visitors scrum half Alec Smith who ran 40 metres to score. The try went unconverted.

Unfortunately, on 31 minutes, Steve Blackburn sustained an ankle injury and was replace by Tom May.

Fortunately, this did not disrupt DK and flanker Danny Hawkins crossed over for the try with Pinches converting.

Caldy were then penalised for a high tackle. Pinches converted the penalty.

In the 45th minute DK were penalised for holding on and the homes were caught napping as instead of going for goal, the visitors took a quick penalty and Dominic Kohler scored under the posts. Vasey again converted.

DK then lost Tom May to a yellow card and while down to 14 players Caldy increased their lead.

Caldy then ran a DK kick back and following several poor tackles Ben Evans crossed for a try which Vasey converted.

Dudley were again penalised this time it was for going over the top in a ruck and Vasey completed the scoring for the day with a successful kick.

Danny Hawkins scores DK's second try but it proved to be not enough as his side slumped to another defeat

Seven's heaven for Ladies

Redditch Ladies 0
Halesowen Ladies 7

THIS County Cup game on paper should have been a good test as the home side were two leagues above Halesowen, however they never read the script and from the off went on the attack.

Within nine minutes Halesowen had taken the lead with swifty winger Sophie Richards powering past the defence to net her first goal of the game.

This stunned the home side but before they could compose themselves the Yeltz had doubled their lead on 12 minutes with a fantastic solo run cutting the defence wide open and slotting it past the lonely keeper.

Five minutes later Richards scored with a low drive with good work from Rachel Letford.

Richards then completed her hat-trick within 39 minutes. Leading goal scorer Letford then made it five. Then Letford became provider as Chatwin made it 6 before half time.

Redditch upped their game in the second half. However, Letford sealed the game from a corner.

FA Round tickets are now on sale

STOURBRIDGE have announced ticket details for their FA Cup second round trip to Stevenage.

The Glassboys go to Broadhall Way on December 7. The club expects more than 500 fans to travel and tickets will be on sale to season ticket holders and members at the War Memorial Ground today Thursday between 7.30pm and 10pm, Sunday, 10am until 1pm and Monday between 7.30pm and 10pm. Tickets are £20 for adults and £17 concessions.

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